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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

March 7th—13th, 1985
Volume 20, Number 9

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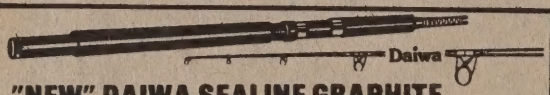

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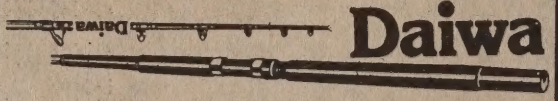

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SLG83HRG	6 2/3' 1pc. 80lb class	$79.99
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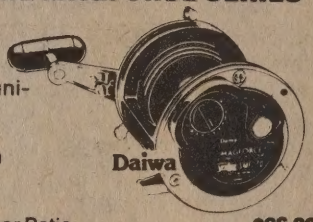
AB1650	Med. F/W 4.6 Gear Ratio	$18.99
AB2050	Med. S/W 4.6 Gear Ratio	$22.99
AB2650	Med./Heavy S/W 4.1 Gear Ratio	$26.99
AB4050	Heavy S/W 4.1 Gear Ratio	$31.99

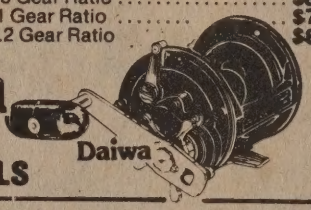
SEALINE MAGFORCE SERIES

High-Speed *Magnetic Anti-Backlash* Ocean Casting Reels feature unitized one-piece frame, machinged aluminum spool, quick take down plate, sealed stainless steel ball bearings.



SMF170	Med/Lt. 3.8 Gear Ratio	$66.99
SMF170H	Med/Lt 5.1 Gear Ratio	$78.99
SMF250	Medium 4.2 Gear Ratio	$67.99

Daiwa SEALINE OCEAN REELS



27H	Lt F/W or S/W 3.8 Gear Ratio Flounder Spl	$35.99
30H	Med/Lt S/W 3.8 Gear Ratio All Around	$37.99
30HS	Med/Lt S/W 5.1 Gear Ratio Jigging Spl.	$41.99
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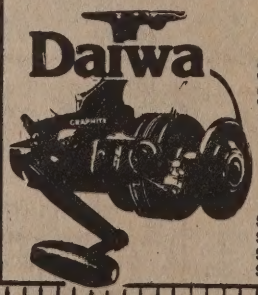
910	Hvy. S/W 2.9 Gear Ratio Deep Water Spl	$63.99



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High-technology rear drag spinning reels with new Dual Lever Drag control. Graphite construction, brass pinion and drive gear. Three stainless steel ball bearings.

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND. METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 20, Number 9 March 7th, 1985

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Flounder made their spring debut more than a week ago around many parts of the Island. Their arrival should help relieve the accumulation of cabin fever ills suffered by most area anglers. March is a fickle month, however, with the weatherman sure to have the final say.

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A free eight-page color catalog covering Sea Isle's famous custom rods (big game, convention and spinning), complete with prices and mail order procedures, is now being offered. You can request one by phone, mail or in person from: Sea Isle Sports, 495 Guy Lombardo Ave., Freeport, NY 11520; (516) 868-8855.

MORICHES ANGLERS BILLFISH AND TUNA TOURNAMENT

Moriches Anglers announces their first-ever Billfish and Tuna Tournament to be held on July 27, 1985 (rain date 7-28-85), with an entry fee of $150 per boat.

Two prizes will be awarded for each category: first and second places in Billfish and first and second places in Tuna. There will be a captain's meeting on July 26, 1985.

For further information, please contact Mr. Chet Wilcox, B&B Tackle, Main St., Center Moriches, 878-9280; or the Moriches Anglers at P.O. Box 193, Center Moriches, NY 11934.

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY OFFERS LOCAL BOATERS 5-YEAR STUDY PROGRAM

On Wednesday evening, March 6, 1985 at 7:45 PM, local boaters may enroll at BOCES Wilson Tech, Northport for a comprehensive boating studies program that takes approximately five years to complete. The announcement was made by Flotilla Commander Georgiana Pretty of Flotilla 22-4 who said that "the program consists of 3 major segments; all are completely voluntary, a student may drop out at any time and there is no cost except for books and materials." "The courses are intended for recreational boaters and are not related to commercial examinations and licenses," she said.

"The first phase stresses basic boating safety and consists of 6 lessons. This is followed by the second phase of 4 lessons covering such subjects as marine piloting, engines, communications and weather," she said. Upon completion of the first and second phases, participants are then eligible to enroll in the Coast Guard Auxiliary's Basic Qualifications Course which is both self-study and tutorial and also entails the demonstraiton of certain on-the-water proficiencies. This portion of the program normally takes 3-6 months for completion.

After completion of the two prior programs, participants may then enroll in the Coast Guard Auxiliary's AUXOP Program. This is a series of six intermediate level courses, some requiring proficiency demonstrations. Persons usually take 3-5 years to complete these courses. For further information and enrollment applications, phone: Days, 543-0855 and Evenings, 757-0857.

TRILENE XT WORLD RECORD LINE $1000 REWARD PROGRAM

Every 18 hours, for the past year, a world record fish is caught on Trilene monofilament line.

In a 12-month period Trilene anglers established 485 new IGFA world records. Approved by IGFA for this same period were 702. This reporting is from July 31, 1983 through June 31, 1984.

From July 31, 1983, to date, 1399 new world record applications from Trilene anglers have been received by IGFA.

As of October 17, 1984 IGFA reported 532 applications in process. Based on statistics of 1983, more records will be approved for the months of June, July, August and September of 1984.

In the calendar year 1983 IGFA approved 619 new world records. They received just over 1000 applications for the year.

Of the 485 Trilene record holders, 374 were men; the balance of 111 were female anglers.

Trilene world records were established in 35 of the 50 United States, Canada, Europe, South America, Africa, Mexico and the Virgin Islands. This information is available for you.

As suggested by Elwood Harry, President of IGFA, most emphasis is on the light line categories.

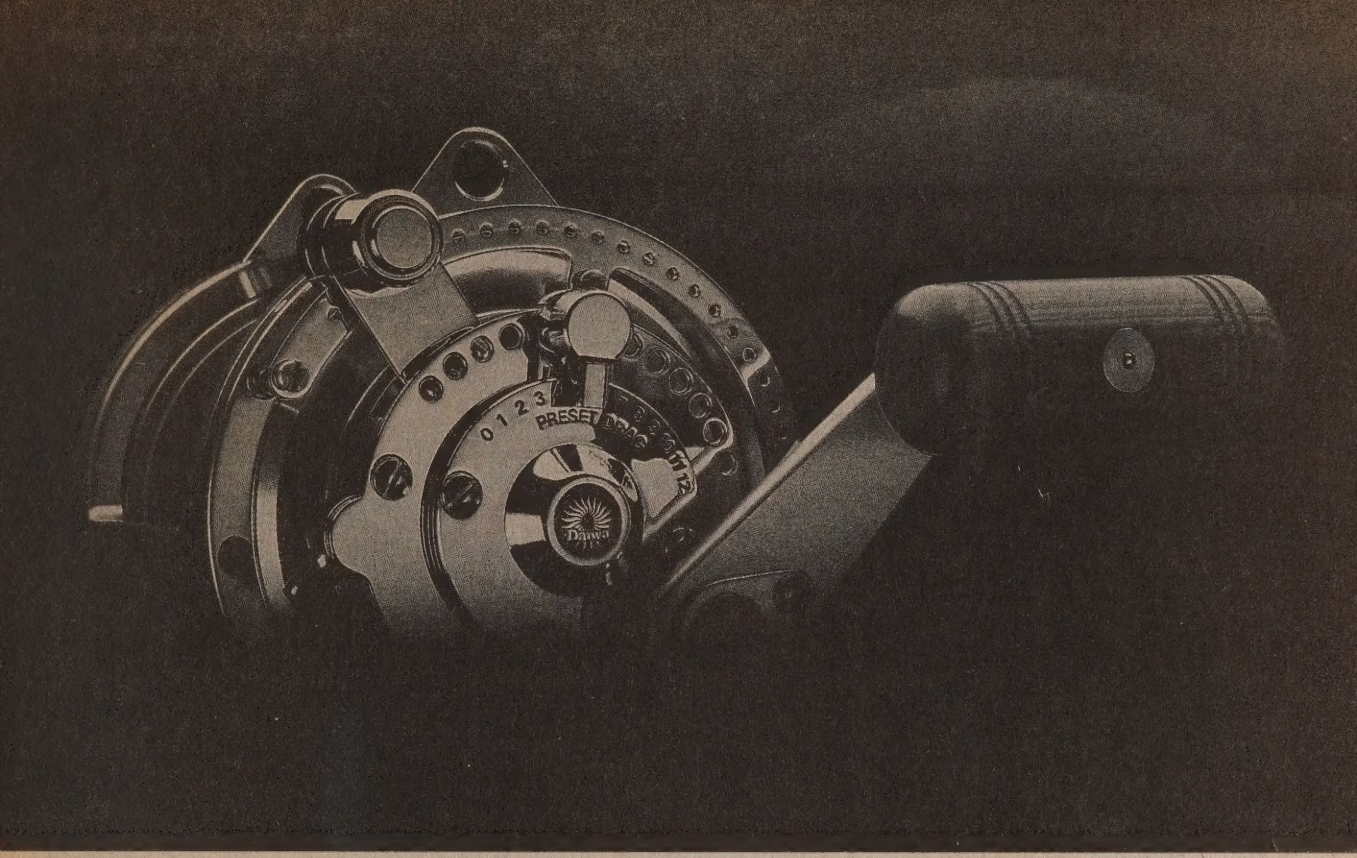
BOATING SAFETY COURSE IN BROOKLYN

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Sheepshead Bay Flotilla 11-6, will present a 12-week boating safety course beginning on Wednesday, March 20, 1985 at the beautiful Miramar Yacht Club, 3050 Emmons Avenue in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. The class will meet each Wednesday from 8 to 10PM.

The course will present a comprehensive series of lectures and hands-on demonstrations covering such topics as: boating skills and seamanship, marine radiotelephone, weather, marine engines and electronics including Loran-C, coastal piloting, and much more.

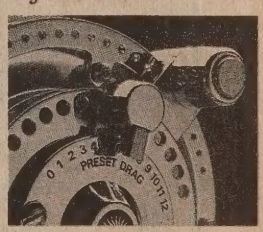
Upon the successful completion of the course, an official Auxiliary certificate will be issued, which may entitle the boat owner to a discount on his marine insurance.

The course is offered free to everyone. There is a nominal fee to cover the cost of books, piloting, tools, chart and other hand-out materials which



Daiwa Sealine tournament. Compared to other saltwater reels it's oceans apart.

The heat of battle is usually where you find out if the design of your I.G.F.A. tournament reel is all wet. That's why Daiwa's new Sealine Tournament® reel is designed for what happens *after* the fish is on. So you fight your best fight. With no surprises.



First, Daiwa engineers took a new direction in tournament reel drag systems. The unique design features a preset lever under the main drag lever that locks your preset adjustment in a numbered stop. So you can repeat the setting with less work.

While you fight the fish with the main drag lever, a one-piece unitized frame machined out of a solid block of aluminum fights torque.

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GREAT OAK MARINA ADDS SEA DEVIL AND WAHOO

Great Oak Marina located at 840 Jericho Turnpike in Smithtown has announced the arrival of two new fishing boat lines. Sea Devil and Wahoo. Sea Devil is built by Cruisers Incorporated and features a high performance Deep-Vee hull designed by Jim Wayne.

The Sea Devil line size range is from 20' to 29' feet. Each model is specifically designed and fitted out for serious fishing.

Wahoo's 16.2' model is one of the best values in an open fishing boat. The philosophy behind this boat is beat the competition, and they've included many standard features that are often options on other brands.

Great Oak Marina is running a special introductory price on the Wahoo! line of boats which adds more value and makes the boat very affordable. Great Oak's phone number is (516) 265-2976 and tell them you saw it here. They're just a 1/4 mile west of Smith Haven Mall.

ESTIMATING BOAT SPEED

"If my boat goes 38 miles per hour with a 75 hp outboard, how fast will it go if I trade up for a 115 hp model?"

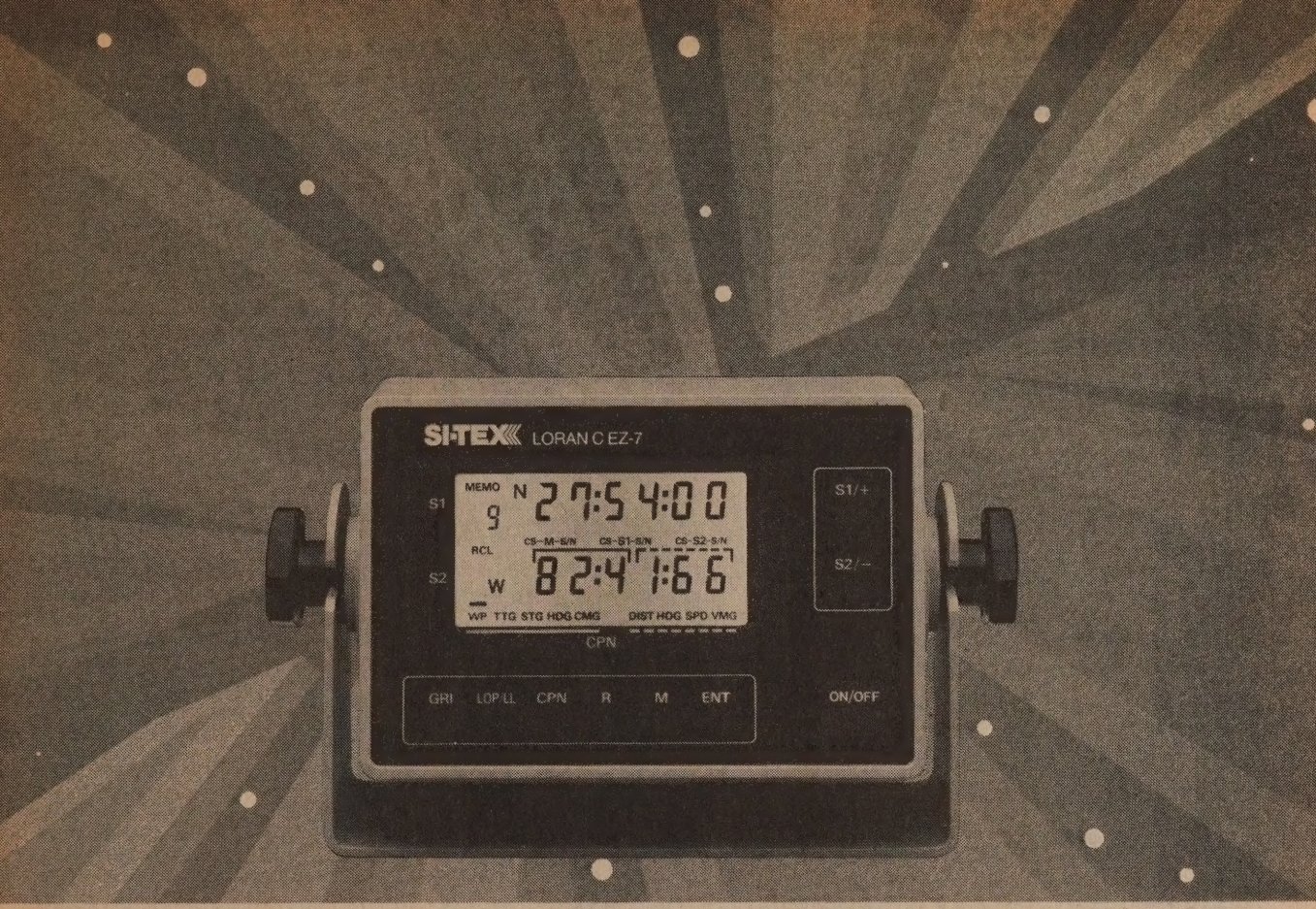
Marine dealers and outboard manufacturers are frequently asked this question, according to the engineering staff at Mercury Outboards.

If actual test results comparing the two power options are not available, a reasonably reliable rule of thumb is that a 10 percent increase in power results in an average 3.9 percent speed increase. This formula is applicable to a typical vee bottom planing hull.

Here's an example. If your 16 foot boat runs at 30.4 mph with a 50 hp motor and you want to consider putting a 90 hp model on the boat transom, our rule of thumb suggests that your speed should be 39.88 mph.

Here's how we arrived at that calculation. You are increasing power by 80 percent, which results in a theoretial speed increase of 31.2 percent. Your speed with a 50 hp is 30.4. Thus, 30.4 mph times 31.2 percent indicates an increase of 9.48 mph. Add this increase to the 30.4 and you arrive at an estimated speed of 39.88 mph. That's how fast the boat should be with a 90 hp model.

To see how the formula worked in actual practice, the Mercury people checked the theory against a boat test they had done on a center console boat with a running weight of 1,610 pounds. When the boat was timed accurately, the 90 hp model propelled it at 40.9 mph, so the rule of thumb was not a bad indicator. Other checks against actual test data show-



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1985 125 H.P. I/O Fresh Water Cooled
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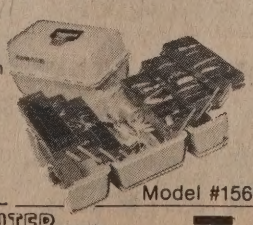

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ed similar results.

To make calculations easier you may want to round off the 3.9 percent to 4 percent. Then a 10 percent increase in power would result in a 4 percent increase in speed.

FREE BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Old Field Point Power Squadron will present the basic boating course of the United States Power Squadrons at the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School in Port Jefferson starting March 5, 1985. This course is 10 weeks and will be held every Tuesday night from 8PM to 10PM. Registration for classes will be at the first class on March 5, 1985.

The course is offered free to the public. Instructions will be given by experienced Squadron members in safe boating, rules of the road, aids to navigation, running lights and equipment, boat trailering, compass and chart familiarization and other relevant topics in both power and sail boating.

NEW 1985 MEPPS FISHING GUIDE FREE

If you want to catch more fish, and who doesn't, then I suggest you send for your free copy of the new 1985 Mepps Fishing Guide.

From cover to cover, it's loaded with helpful fishing information, tips, fishing stories and the latest in Mepps spinners. There's a section in this year's Guide which gives some hot tips about fishing Mepps new Combo Killers. Throughout the Fishing Guide are pictures of some great Mepps catches taken last year.

There's a limited supply of free Guides, so act now. To get yours, send a postcard requesting a free 1985 Fishing Guide. Mail it to: Mepps, Dept. 1500, P.O. Box 508, Antigo, WI 54409-0508.

HIGH HILL STRIPER CLUB OPEN HOUSE

An Open House will be held for anyone interested in becoming a member of the High Hill Striper Club on Wednesday, March 20, 1985, at 8:15 PM at the Garden City Bowling Alley, 987 Stewart Avenue, Garden City. Guest speaker will be Bill Muller, Assistant to the Publisher of The Fisherman, who will discuss "Weakfishing from the Surf" with a question and answer session afterwards. A film will be shown and coffee and cake will be served.

The High Hill Striper Club is looking for new members with not only a sincere and dedicated interest in surf fishing and conservation, but who are also willing to become involved in club activities. The High Hill Striper Club is strictly a surf fishing club with an emphasis on conservation.

The Club welcomes both veteran surf fishermen and beginners. The veteran will enjoy the interclub competition as well as the club contests. The beginner will be tutored in the sport by some of the finest fishermen

on Long Island. Come to the Open House and join up.

Due to limited space, if you are planning to attend, please call Roger Martin at (212) 566-1400 between 9AM to 5PM; or at (516) 868-3817 between 7 and 10PM.

LONG ISLAND WATERFOWL FESTIVAL

The Long Island Waterfowl Festival will be held at the IBEW Electricians Hall, 41 Pinelawn Road, Melville, New York, on Saturday and Sunday, March 23rd and 24th. The Festival will feature the 62nd Annual U.S. National Decoy Show and Bird Carving Exhibit, an exhibit which will include over 1,000 decorative and miniature waterfowl carvings, in addition to special categories for song birds and birds of prey. The show will be open to the public on Saturday, 11AM to 6PM and Sunday, 10Am to 5PM. Admission is $3.50. Children under 12 are admitted free.

M.C.A. CHARITY SHARK TOURNEY SLATED FOR JULY 6 & 7

The Montauk Captains Association would like to announce the date for its 1985 Annual Charity Shark Tournament. It will be held at the Captains Cove Marina, Westlake Drive, Montauk, New York on Saturday and Sunday, July 6 and 7. The entry fee will remain $175 and all money will go to prizes and charity. The MCA doesn't make any money on the tournament.

For more information and a list of available charter boats, please call: Capt. Joe McBride, Pres., (516) 588-1227; Captains Cove Marina, (516) 668-5995; or write to MCA, Box 137, Montauk, NY.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this worthwhile civic event. More information will be distributed in the forthcoming months. Please sign up early and ensure a place for your boat in the tournament.

YAMAHA OUTBOARDS ANNOUNCES TWO-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

With high confidence in its marine products, Yamaha Motor Corporation USA has announced it is standing behind its Yamaha Outboards with a two-year limited warranty.

The warranty announcement went into effect August 1, 1984, and applies to all Yamaha Outboards sold after that date.

The two-year program covers all major components on outboards used in pleasure or recreational use.

"Since introducing our products to the United States market one year ago, we have received a fantastic reception by the boating public," said Yamaha Outboards' Vice President and Division Manager Ham Hamberger. "And during that time our outboards have shown their reliability, as they have for the past 25 years, in 140 different countries worldwide. That's why we are offering this new warranty."

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All lines tested were tested on August 1984 spools at recommended tolerances under identical test conditions. Samples were purchased from retail stores across the U.S.A. Tests prove that Trilene's tensile strength was superior. Tensile strength is based on line diameter and break strength. It is a measurement, in pounds per square inch (PSI), of the force required to break a line. Test results available upon request.
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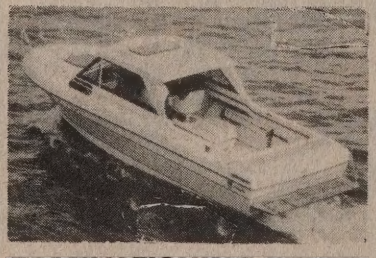

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BOATS FOR ANGLERS:

FISHER SV's

by Pete Barrett

Fisher Marine advertises their line of aluminum boats as "more boat for the buck." After looking over their SV series of 16 footers, it is clear that they have not only put together a neatly designed trio of versatile boats; but the selection of features, ride and fishability all come together in a package of high value to fishermen.

The SV-1 is the simplest of the three with tiller control either from a seat or from a standing position. Folding pedestal seats can be placed in any of four positions. The SV-2 adds a side console and more seat positions. The SV-3 is the most complete version of the series and boasts more seating, a side console and a stern casting platform with additional built-in storage.

Each of the three models is based on the same hull, an .080 gauge aluminum skin that is tough enough to withstand the knocks and bumps of serious fishing and last for a long, long time.

The forward casting platform is identical for each model and provides two storage compartments, plus a live well. Freshwater anglers can keep shiners, minnows and herring, while saltwater anglers will find the live well large enough to hold killies, snappers and spot.

The platform is large enough to mount electronics like flashers or recorders and sturdy enough to mount the detachable pedestal seat. There is adequate gun'l height all around the platform to keep tackle and gear from heading overboard.

Just forward of the casting platform, a small bow deck is large enough to mount an electric motor and anchoring gear. Just under the bow deck there's space in a small compartment to hold anchor, lines and fenders.

Unlike many other aluminum boats, Fisher uses only a small amount of wood in the overall construction of the SV series. The deck is a sheet of aluminum and combined with their "unit frame" construction, the SVs are rigid and can handle rough and choppy waters with ease. Since the deck is sheet aluminum, there is never a worry about rot or deck replacement at some future time.

Adding to the ride characteristics is a hull designed with a very sharp entry forward to slice through bad waters, tapering back to a semi vee at mid-hull, then to a nearly flat hull at the transom for fuel efficiency and stability while trolling casting and drifting. Saltwater fluke and weakfishermen will find this combination of sharp entry and planing hull to be a good compromise for large bays and rough inlets, while freshwater anglers who need a skiff capable of handling the heavy chop of large lakes will also find this hull to be a good choice.

There's 20 inches of height at the transom and a large splash well to keep a following sea out of the boat. Free board is generous and the boat feels like it is bigger than it really is, partly due to the over 6 foot beam.

Internally, the hull is a crisscross of aluminum braces forming a rigid framework upon which the decks and

casting platforms are all mounted. The end result is the strongest aluminum skiff I've ever seen. Closed cell foam is placed in all open areas under the decks for flotation to meet B.I.A. specifications.

The only place any wood is used in the hatches, and it's marine grade plywood. Mounting hinges are beefy and metal trim helps keep water out of the storage areas. Flush mount lift eyes fold down so feet don't trip on them and the hatches can be made lockable.

Rod storage can be arranged by simply installing foam lined brackets like the kind sold in most tackle shops. The rods can lay along both of the carpeted flotation boxes under each gun'l. Additional rods could be stored by mounting flush mount rod holders into the casting platforms or on the aft panel of the forward casting platform. Vertical rod holders can also be mounted on the front of the console on the SV-2 and 3.

All surface decks and hatches are covered with a brown vinyl marine grade carpeting that is easy to clean. Better yet, the carpet quiets the boat: a nice feature if you fish at night for spooky weakfish in the back bays or silently sneak up on stump-dwelling largemouths.

The consoles on the SV-2 and SV-3 are small so they don't get in the way of fishing, but they are also large enough for mounting electronics like graph recorder, flasher and temperature gauge. The windshield can be removed if you need more mounting room on top of the console. A VHF or CB can be mounted under the console out of the elements of bad weather, yet handy for quick use.

Among the standard items on each SV model are high quality navigational lights and an electric bilge pump. All hardware I inspected appeared to be of top quality able to withstand many years of use in either fresh or salt water.

For the fisherman who wants a high quality boat capable of fishing a wide variety of waters and with a moderate price, the SV series offers three good choices.

The boats are sharp-looking with a pleasing rise at the bow and an attractive color scheme that blends in nicely with the outdoors. These are good boats.

The following spec sheet covers the SV-3 model. The SV-2 and SV-1 are similar, but have slightly different specifications. The manufacturer or a local dealer can provide complete details on each model.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	16'3"
Beam	76"
Transom Height	20"
Maximum Horsepower	75
Dry Weight	600 pounds
Fuel Capacity (portable)	18 gallons

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ELECTRONICS WORKBENCH

by John Kungl

Dear John,

The fuse on my chart recorder blew on my last trip offshore. What size fuse should I replace it with, or could I eliminate it completely from the wiring? Mike Conad.

Dear Mike,

Under no circumstances ever eliminate fuses from electrical equipment. They're there to protect both the equipment and the boat from disastrous short circuits in the wiring as well as malfunctions in the equipment. Before replacing the fuse (or resetting a circuit breaker) try to locate the source of the problem. Check to see if the positive voltage wire (usually red) has been cut or worn through and is touching the negative voltage wire (usually black) or is contacting an equipment ground or boat hull. If you find this condition, either tape the wire or replace with a new wire of the same or larger gauge before replacing the fuse. Always replace fuses with ones of the same amperage rating since larger ones may not protect the equipment and smaller ones will blow prematurely. If the fuse blows again after you have checked the wiring, take the equipment back to your dealer for service since the problem is probably internal. Always carry a set of spare fuses for all your marine electronics on board since fuses can blow at any time and according to Murphy—when you need the equipment the most.

* * *

Dear John,

I saw an ad in a magazine (not The Fisherman) last month for a marine VHF radio for $129. How can they sell one that cheap when most VHFs are at least $300? Clyde Boles.

Dear Clyde,

Remember the old adage: Beware of bargains in life preservers, parachuts and electronic equipment! I have not personally seen the radio in question, so I can't comment on its performance. Remember, though, that manufacturers of marine radios spend much time and money to bring you the best possible product which will perform under all environmental conditions. I don't believe that a company that sells a radio for $300 is

Avoid making your Loran antenna the highest point on your boat to minimize interference from electrical storms.

making $170 profit, but has produced a product that is worth $300 and not $129. Try to stick with the well-known brands until the newcomers have developed a good reputation. If you must have a bargain on your boat—try generic peanut butter.

* * *

Dear John,

I recently purchased a 17 foot aluminum center console. While checking the wiring, I found a lot of green and white powder on the connections as well as some broken wires going nowhere. I want to replace all the wiring but don't know too much about it. Can you help? Frank DeGenerado.

Dear Frank,

We could probably write a book on wiring a boat properly, but here are a few basic points to work from. First, make a diagram of all existing wiring showing location of all wire runs as well as their colors. Replace each wire or pairs as you remove the old ones with wire of the same gauge or larger. Use only wire designed for marine use having good insulation and resistance to the elements. Protect the wire from chafing and cutting against metal on the hull by using plastic clamps for fasteners. For long runs under the deck, use PVC piping to prevent shorts and to aid your installation. Solder all wire splices and connectors and either tape securely or coat with liquid plastic to prevent shorts. Use standard color coding for your wiring: Red for positive and Black for negative; other colors for wiring to lights and accessories. Terminate your main power leads from the battery into a protected fused terminal block and wire all your accessories from this point. When you've finished, have someone knowledgeable with boat wiring check it out to avoid future problems.

* * *

Dear John,

Whenever there is a change in the weather, such as a storm approaching, my Loran becomes useless, with no numbers appearing on the display. What's the problem? Ralph Regan.

Dear Ralph,

One of the problems with radio reception, especially low frequency receivers like Loran, is atmospheric noise generated by electrical storms. To minimize this noise, it is important that the tip of your Loran antenna not be the highest point on your boat if possible. If it is, all the static discharges in the air around the boat will collect on the antenna and cover up the Loran transmissions you are trying to receive. You can try different locations for your antenna temporarily until the best location is found. If you still experience problems, consult with your local marine electronics dealer for recommendations.

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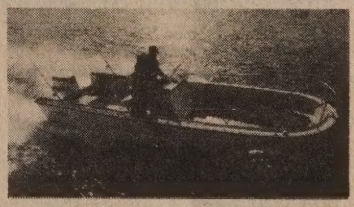

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FISHERMAN HOSTING STREN CASTING SERIES

by William A. Muller

We are pleased to announce participation in the DuPont-Stren Tournament Casting Series for Long Island fishermen. DuPont-Stren is the sponsor and The Fisherman will act as the regional host.

This is a national tournament casting event with six regional casting competitions. The winners of the six regional events will be invited to Arizona in June for the national cast-off tournament. DuPont-Stren will pick up the tab for transportation and lodging for the Arizona trip.

Tournament Director and renowned Out Banks surf fisherman, Ken Lauer, tells us there will be awards to the best 10 casters, with the three longest casters receiving cash awards. For a first place finish the lucky winner will receive $500; second place $350 and third place receives $250. Of course, the cash awards increase for the six competitors at the National cast-off in June.

This is an exciting opportunity for Long Island beach rats who savor the skill and distance of their casting abilities, and I know we're all grateful to DuPont-Stren for originating and sponsoring this casting tournament.

In order to be eligible to compete, an angler will have to be qualified prior to the competition. We're asking fishing clubs on Long Island to help us with the qualifying activity. That is, we're asking that an officer of an interested club supervise, under the regulations spelled out below, the qualifying of any of its members who are interested in competing. If your club is interested, fill out the form at the end of this feature and mail it in today. We'll follow up with a more complete set of rules, some suggestions, qualifying cards that you will fill out, sign, and give to those members who qualify. You may handle your qualifying activities on any date you choose and anywhere that's convenient.

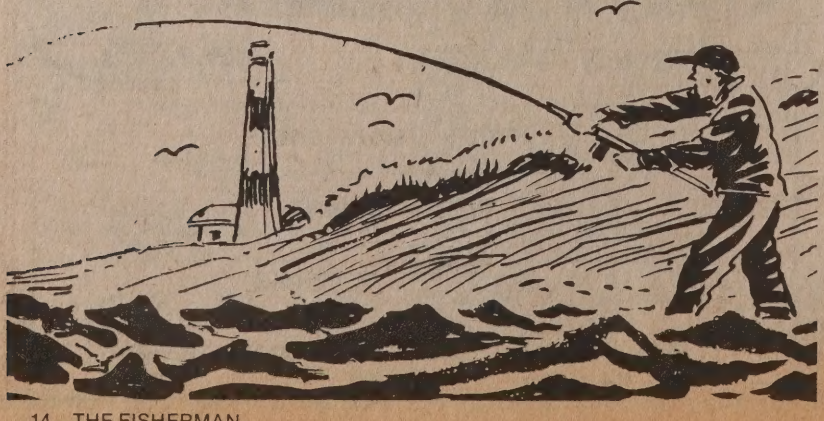
The Fisherman will qualify non-club affiliated casters on Saturday, April 13, 1985 at 10AM, at the Polo Field at Bethpage State Park. If the weather is very bad, we have an alternate date of Saturday, April 20, 1985. The contest will also be held on the Polo Fields, May 11, 1985, at 10AM.

It is very important that candidates for competition and participating clubs familiarize themselves thoroughly with the rules and regulations that appear above.

Whether a competing angler is qualified by a club or by The Fisherman, qualified anglers will be given a card that they must present on the day of the reel fill and casting tournament. There will be somewhere between five and ten judges at the tournament site and they will measure and validate the casts.

Ken Lauer wants everybody to know there will be a long-casting demonstration on the day of the contest (Saturday, May 11, 1985) between 8-10AM. The demo will be entertaining for spectators and instructive to competitors. Incidentally, spectators are welcome. There are grandstands at the Polo fields.

Although the contest will go ahead in light rain, a weather date of Sunday, May 12, 1985 (10AM) has been established in case of horrendous weather.



Qualified contestants must come to the clubhouse at Bethpage State Park, Friday evening, May 10, 1985, with the reel they will use in the contest, so that tournament officials can fill the reel with 12 pound test Golden Stren. Reel-fill hours on May 10, 1985 will be 5PM until 10PM.

Ken Lauer suggests potential contestants practice with six ounce bank sinkers, since these sinkers usually weigh close to 5¼ ounces in reality. DuPont-Stren will provide 5¼ ounce sinkers for competitors on the contest date.

CONTEST REGULATIONS

1. All contestants must be residents of the United States. There is no entry fee.

2. Contestants may participate in **one** regional tournament each year.

3. Any length rod and all makes and models of reels are acceptable.

4. The official tournament line is 12 pound test Golden STREN which will be provided at each tournament.

5. A 50 pound test shock leader of Golden STREN is mandatory and will be provided as well.

6. Casting weights not exceeding 150 grams will be provided at each tournament (5¼ oz.).

7. All contestants must be able to cast a minimum of 450 feet and have written verification by an officer of the hosting club.

Awards: At all regional tournaments, DuPont will award the following: **1st Place:** $500; **2nd Place:** $350; **3rd Place:** $250.

NATIONAL COMPETITION

The DuPont STREN 1985 National Longcasting Tournament will be held in Phoenix, AZ during the first week of June at the national conference of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. Regional winners will be notified of exact date and location. DuPont STREN will pay all travel, food, and lodging expenses of the regional winners participating in the national tournament; however, contestants are required to make their own travel arrangements and ensure safe arrival of equipment. The tournament director will be available to provide assistance with travel arrangements. National competition awards will be announced in early 1985. Prizes will be as follows: **1st Place:** $1,000; **2nd Place:** $500; **3rd Place:** $300.

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PHONE: _____

Number of members interested in qualifying: _____

RIGGING A CANYON LURE

by Kenny Douton & Tim Coleman

While you are following along on this story, we'd like you to keep three items in mind. This series was put together with the beginning canyon fisherman in mind. As such, some of the rigging or methods won't be the same as those of more experienced skippers. But, what we did NOT want was someone traveling the distance, then losing their first bigeye or large yellowfin due to inadequate rigging.

First item to keep in mind is the brand of lure. Shown here is a Lee Lure, but obviously there are literally dozens of brands to choose from. You should consult your tackle source for a good name, high quality lure that will track true and not fall apart at a critical moment. Generally, though the larger size rigs, from 12 to 16 inches, are favored for this type trolling.

Second item is the pound test of the leader. We are showing 300 pound test here. While that is better for a beginner, more experienced anglers will undoubtedly go lighter. Someone new to this type action should go to the heavy side, though, his first couple trips out.

Last item is the rig from Comstock Company. We are recommending it because we thought it easier than someone sitting down to snell two large hooks on heavy leader in offset fashion. It seemed to us a beginner could buy one of the Comstock two hook rigs and be in business without much fuss. It should be noted Comstock makes different sized rigs for different type offshore angling. The one recommended for the larger fish in the canyon is model #7691 with two stout 11/0 hooks.

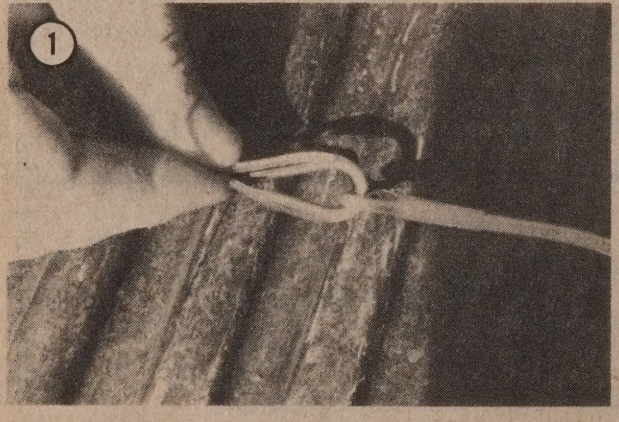
Materials needed are lure, 300 pound test leader material, crimping tool, two-hook Comstock rig, crimping sleeves and line bridle.

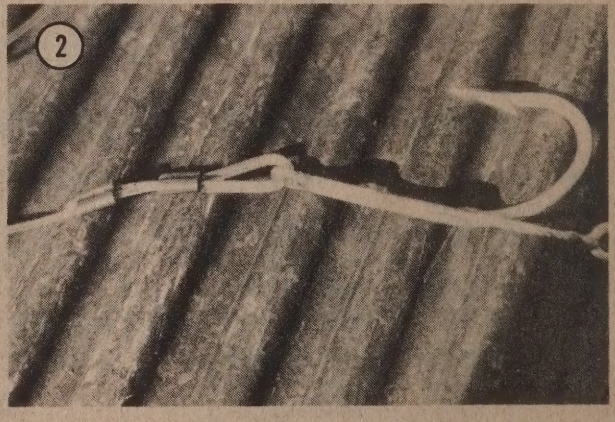
Photo One: First step is to run the leader through the eye of the top hook, then around the line bridle. The bridle keeps the leader from chafing during a long-drawn out tussle with fish that may hit 300 plus pounds.

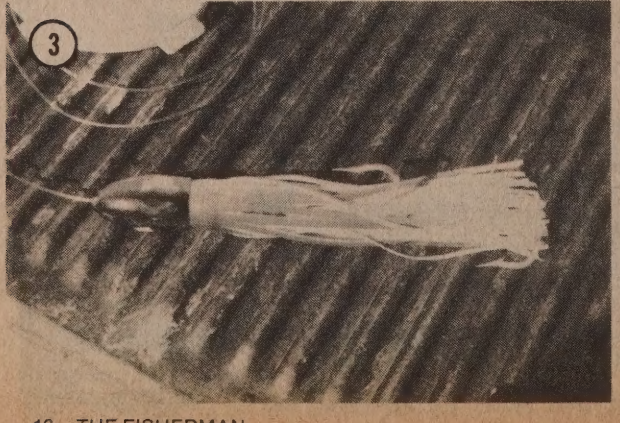
Photo Two: Crimping sleeves are used to hold two pieces of very heavy leader together instead of tying a knot. You need #12 sleeves for 300 pound leader. After running the line around the bridle, run it through two sleeves, then crimp in place as shown here.

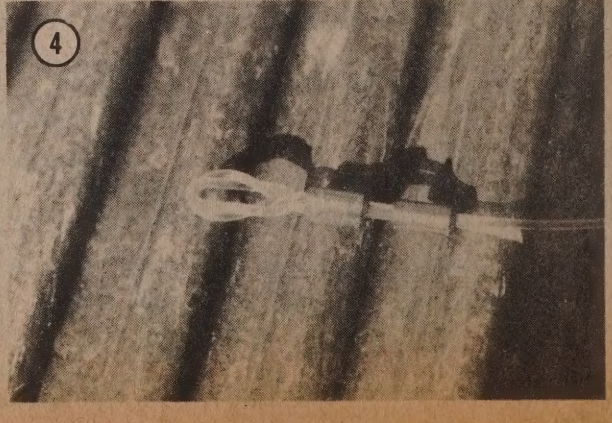
Photo Three: Now run the lure down the leader so it rests on the top hook. About 15 foot of leader is a good rule of thumb.

Photo Four: Last step is to put an Offshore Loop in the other end of the leader, then crimp in place using two more sleeves. A lot of offshore fishermen tie a large snap swivel on the tag end of their running line. They then clip the snap swivel in the eye of the Offshore Knot tied in each and every one of the leaders on different lures. When done fishing, just undo snap and store leader and lure until it's needed for another trip.









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THE "STIRRING" THIRTIES

by Matt Ahern

Let me take you back to the days of the Great Depression—the early Thirties. They were rough days, no question about that. If you were fortunate to hold down a steady job in those stirring times, you were indeed lucky. But if you suffered the pangs of unemployment and yet were a fairly skilled fisherman, you had a distinct advantage.

By using an often difficult-to-secure buck or two for party boat fishing, a fisherman had the opportunity to provide his family and his neighbor's family with delicious, wholesome meals. Perhaps he mgiht even sell some of his fish on the side. Many fellows did, including yours truly. And if a fisherman was luckier still, he might even win the big-fish pool and have enough left to buy the kids a pair of much-needed shoes—to say nothing of an additional trip or two the following week; which, of course, meant another shot at the pool.

I think it was during that time the greatest fishermen of my early days were made. While enjoyment and sport were still the name of the game, many desperate fishermen were motivated by the need to provide the bare necessities. Those fellows had nothing going for them but their skill with a fishing rod. Should they fail, their families were sure to suffer.

The cold, simple fact was that one either made it or didn't, and woe betide the poor soul who failed. To the everlasting credit of those fishermen, I personally never knew one who fell by the wayside. Truly, for many, fishing during those days was purely a matter of survival.

We will never see their kind again.

There were, of course, many reasons for their success, but I believe the one thing of importance was when every fisherman's inherent kindness to one another became the watchword of the day. Every fisherman I knew cared for the welfare of the next guy. Even those fishermen who were more fortunate employment-wise held much sympathy and compassion for those fellows who truly battled rough times. It was common for fishermen to share their catch with those known to be in desperate need.

Certainly, it was the unwritten law of the Depression-day fisherman to help the other guy to the best of his ability. This, I believe, is what brought most of us through those tough days. Surely, one received and appreciated a better understanding of his fellow man. And, truly, it was these little acts of kindness that nurtured and sustained hope in many discouraged souls.

It is not difficult for me to relate scores of such instances.

For example, as a kid and a devoted party boat fisherman even then, each Thursday during summer school vacation was my day to fish aboard the old Rose R II out of Canarsie. Due to circumstances, I could only afford that one trip each week (unless I won the pool), but I had a whole week to scrounge that dollar fare—and scrounge I did. Today a buck is a mere pittance, but in those days it was a lot of money for a youngster to latch onto. But I always managed. Most times.

"Yes, the early Thirties were rough all right, but for those men who knew how to use a fishing rod, and who had a wealth of compassion for their fellow anglers, there were many bright spots."

I stress "most times" because I recall one spell when I missed two Thursdays in a row and you can bet I was hurting. I could have gotten the fare money from my parents, I'm sure, but in those days things weren't done that way. If you wanted something badly enough and needed money for it, you went out and earned it.

How I got the money together I no longer remember, but get it I did. The instant I stepped aboard on that third belated Thursday, Dick Persson, the skipper, asked me where I'd been. I poured out my tale of woe. Would you like to know how this great fishing skipper reacted to that tale? He told me never to do that again. Any time I didn't have the fare, he said, I was not to worry about it. Just come aboard anyway. This is but one example of the sort of kindness that prevailed those days.

I'm a great champion of party boat skippers. Lord knows I have much reason to.

For instance: most established party boat skippers of the day carried their share of "dead heads." These were the fellows who just could not scrape that fare together, but of course they had to eat. I know from personal experience as a party boat mate during those early days that there were many times when a third of the passengers aboard popular party boats never paid a fare.

But it didn't matter. As one skipper told me many years later as we discussed this subject: "Matt, those fellows supported me when they had it. Why shouldn't I have helped them when they didn't? Was I to let them starve?"

Truly, as someone once said: "There were men in those days."

Now that was the way some party boat skippers felt about it, but what about the individual fisherman? Was he a stranger to kindness? No, sir.

Many times, I saw fare-paying passengers who didn't have the necessary quarter to go into the big-fish pool being entered by more affluent fishermen, who in most cases were often strangers to one another. There was never any thought of remuneration—such as splitting the pool should the less fortunate fisherman win. And oftentimes when it did happen, the offering was refused anyway.

During my dropline fishing days as a kid, I was gifted with many a spare wooden sidewinder reel. One passenger gave me a rod. Another, a surplus Navy pea jacket from the First World War. One passenger, a Jewish baker who also fished on Thursdays, made it a point to bring extra bagels and cheese danish for that kid he claimed had hollow legs, though in all truth I knew you were afraid he might be hungry. Sam, though you are gone from this mortal coil over 50 years, I love you still. You were among the many who taught a boy what it means to be a man.

Now, that's the way it was for many fishermen during those sad days of the Great Depression. For many it was a meager existence at best, but somehow we managed to keep body and soul together and our spirits high. Fortunately for us, the fish seemed high-spirited too, for they cheerfully cooperated with us and often filled butter tub and sack to overflowing.

Yes, the early Thirties were rough all right, but for those men who knew how to use a fishing rod, and who had

a wealth of compassion for their fellow anglers, there were many bright spots. Those were truly the days of master fishermen, never to be forgotten.

Now, in a lighter vein, I'm going to ask you a series of questions.

If you can remember when sand and bloodworms sold for fifteen cents a dozen; when live killies went for ten cents a quart; when green crabs cost two dollars a bushel; when a bushel of skimmer set you back fifty cents; when snapper fishing, five cents worth of big shrimp was enough for all-day fishing; when grass shrimp for weakfish chum cost fifty cents a quart and you screamed at the price; when weakfish charters set you back $35; when it took a matter of minutes on any backwater marsh to gather all the China-back fiddlers needed for a day's blackfishing...

When rowboats rented for fifty cents on weekdays, seventy-five cents on weekends—and sometimes a quarter if that's all you had; when outboard engines were few and far between; when party boats had engineers and the diesel had to be started from the engine room; when 11 knots was good speed for many party boats; when some party boats brought along carrier pigeons to alert those on shore should anything unforeseen happen; when party boat bilges were pumped out by hand; when there were absolutely no electronic aids aboard these craft; when anchors on many party boats were pulled by hand; when party boat fares were two dollars, one dollar for youngsters, and it mattered not where you fished or for what; when sidewinder reels were in common use; then when loose hooks were kept in talcum powder to prevent rust; when "catgut" fluke and weakfish leaders required soaking for at least ten minutes before use to prevent parting under strain...

When fishing line was white, made of braided Irish linen and needed to be washed in fresh water after each trip and then dried in the shade to avoid rot; when most hook snells were made of tarred line; when few ringed hooks were available for sport fishing; when loose hooks were wrapped to snell or leader with waxed thread and coated with spar varnish for waterproofing...

When you trolled South Shore inlets for blues and bonito with Japanese feather lures; when hake were caught off Sandy Hook's Cedar Ground every May and June; when the Cholera Bank produced monster cod; when you had to first fish through the ling to get at the humpback sea bass on that same Cholera Bank; when Fred Feltcher of The Daily News and Jack Brawley of the New York Journal-American were the most widely read fishing columnists in the New York area.

If you can remember any or all of these, I have only one thing to say: My friend, you've been fishing a long, long time and you've caught one helluva lot of fish!

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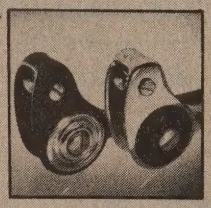

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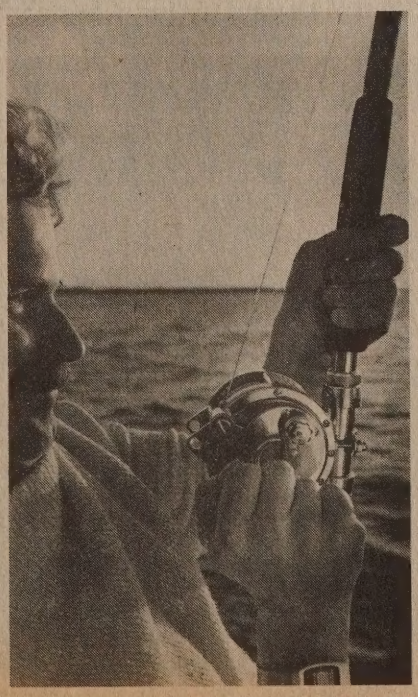

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TROPHY BROWNS OF LAKE ONTARIO

Part Two—*by Lou Truppi*

Last week I introduced you to the brown trout fishing available in the Great Lakes. I've fished and chartered in the Great Lakes for 15 years come this spring.

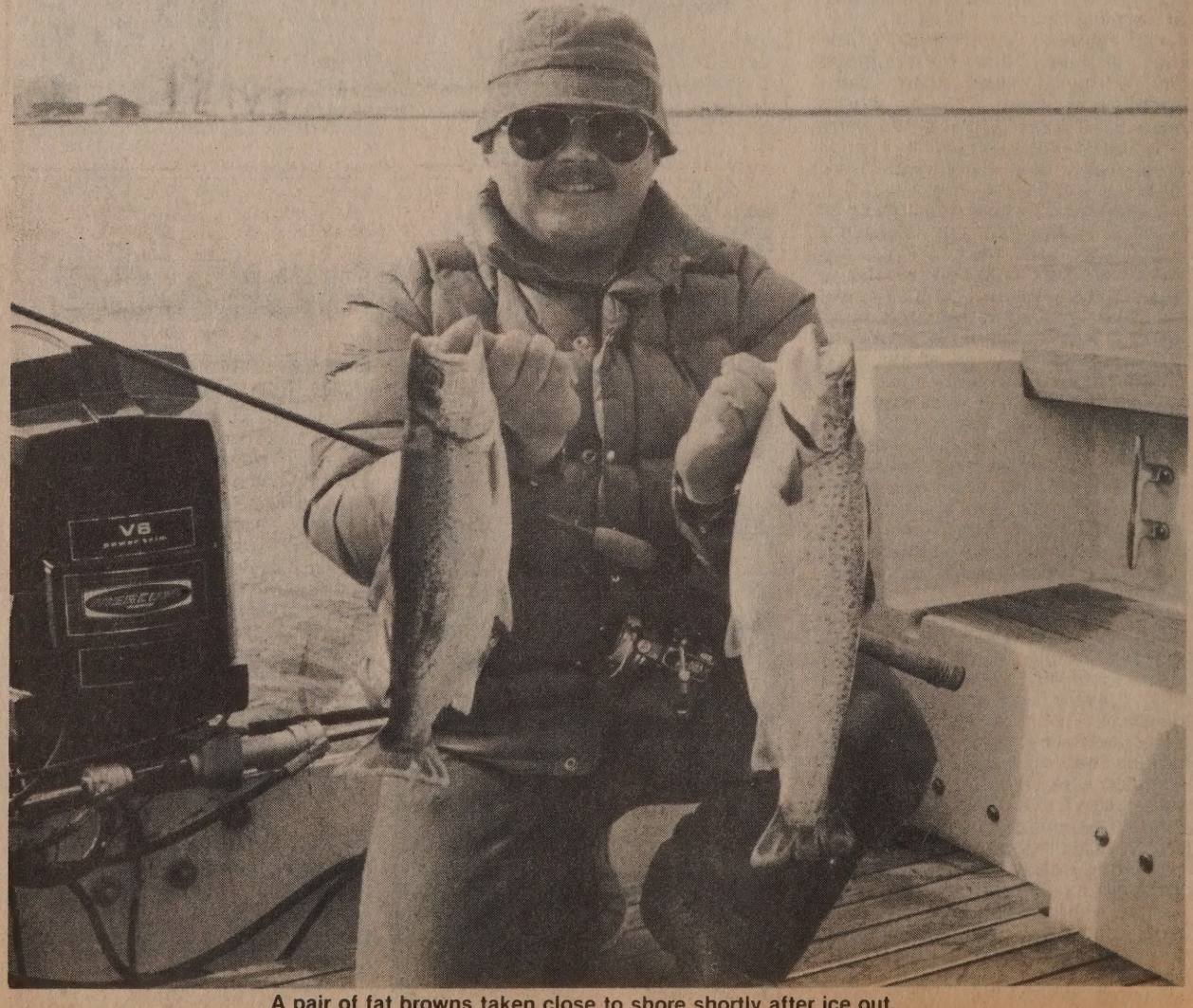
Fishing on these inland seas is quite different from local lake fishing. In your favor is the sheer vastness of the big lake. The trout roving offshore in big water tend to be less spooky than on the mill ponds at home. Yes, there is company out here, but you'll have plenty of fishing room.

Ice out fishing in very cold waters dictate a slow to moderate troll speed. The big trout's primary food this time of year consists of alewife. As the bait migrates shoreward, so do the trout hot on their heels. Marauding schools of trout on occasion will pin pods of herring against the beach. The ensuing melee can be a boon for any angler in the immediate vicinity. Lures cast or trolled through the slaugher will bring jarring strikes from the browns.

Most early spring fishing takes place close to shore. Usually within one-half mile of the beach. In fact, tons of fish are caught in water less than 10 feet deep during early season. As I've stated previously, shore-bound anglers enjoy this fast fishing as do their boat counterparts.

Most boat fishermen employ trolling as the primary fishing method for collecting the big browns. Suitable trolling methods can be as simple or as complicated as you'd like to make them.

Methods such as longline trolling account for many fish. This involves



A pair of fat browns taken close to shore shortly after ice out.

running a spoon or plug 150 to 250 feet astern of the boat. The rod is placed in the holder and the anglers trolls suitable areas awaiting a strike. In most cases, he has a short wait. Sometimes a short line is run close astern. Salmon are notorious for smashing this close-in lure. Due to the line lengths, and at times, wind conditions, line must be separated to prevent tangles. Outriggers, downriggers and the new planer boards all serve to perform this function.

Most anglers are familiar with uses for outriggers and downriggers, but perhaps the planer boards need some interpretation. Planer boards consist of a single or dual set of boards, weighed and counterbalanced to run at 90 degree angles to your boat. A mast is mounted 4 to 6 feet off the deck. This added height enables the boards to angle out to 250 feet or so. The boards are run out on 200 lb. dacron to minimize the drawbacks a stretching monofilament would have on the boards due to wave action. Lines are extended using a special release clip that slides down the taut dacron. You can adjust how far down the dacron the release travels by the amount of line released from your reel.

The standard systems employ three lures to each planer board. Planer boards might take some getting used to when making turns and wading through heavy traffic. On the base of the poles are mounted a pair of large hand reels to shorten or lengthen the boards quickly.

The poles should be mounted as far forward as possible to ensure proper board angle. However, the dual boards coupled with good pole height ensure proper angles even at slow speeds. In fact, the dual boards are vastly superior to most single boards and are the choice of many savvy anglers today.

Planer boards can increase your catch by as much as 50 percent. My own opinion on most larger boats, is closer to 75 percent. Big boats with big engines and shallower water trout don't mix. The planer boards can ply these shallow water trout haunts and place your lure to fish that are not spooked.

Outriggers can be used to do much the same as the boards but aren't as effective. The reason is that even with 20 foot riggers you can only spread your line 40 feet, far short of what the boards will do.

Downriggers are not required for early season trolling due to the shallow water fishing. However, on occasion when long lining the downrigger can used to sink a couple of lines to eliminate cross wind tangles and to expedite turns.

Trolling techniques for Great Lakes trout are being refined each season. Simple techniques without the fancy footwork will catch fish, but it's the refined methods that will enable you to catch those trophies and consistently I might add!

Next week: tackle selection.

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THE ABC's OF FLOUNDERING

Part One—*by Capt. Pete Mikoleski*

Our western bays provide solid flounder action to those with a thorough knowledge of the basics.

It's only been four or five months since the Regina M was hoisted out of the water and bundled up for the winter, but for a die-hard fisherman like myself, it seems like an eternity. While many guys are content to sit in front of the TV all winter watching football games, I could never get into watching football, so after a month of being cooped up indoors, I start to get fidgety. By the end of January all my rods and reels have been taken care of, the tackle boxes cleaned out, and the boat's electronics serviced and put in tiptop condition. There is a short respite from the winter doldrums in January spent at the New York Boat Show where I found out that despite what the politicians say about the strengthening of the nation's economy, I am still no closer to owning that brand new 42 foot Hatteras that I've always wanted! By mid-February if it wasn't for Al Ristori and Bob Rocchetta's fishing school, I would have been diagnosed as having a terminal case of cabin fever! Finally, the fishing season begins with pursuit of early spring flounder. Let's think about some of the techniques we're going to try this season to tempt those flounder to leave that warm muddy bottom and jump on our hooks. Since most of our fishing takes place in the South Shore bays, and particularly the western bays, much of what we will be discussing is geared toward flatfishing in this area.

Before we get into bait and tackle, let's try and pinpoint where we would most likely find our flat friends. Flounder are extremely fond of muddy bottoms. During the colder weather they like to bury themselves in the mud. So it would make sense that the first prerequisite to catching flounder is to find a good area with a muddy bottom. The easiest way to find a mud bottom if you are unfamiliar with the area is to check a local small craft chart of the area you intend to fish. Once you have located some promising spots, the next step is to actually sample the bottom before you anchor up and start fishing. Not just any muddy bottom will do.

It has to be clean mud in order to be able to sustain a healthy population of flounder. CLEAN MUD? Let me explain. While positioned over the bottom in question, drop your anchor and drag it around a bit so it will scoop up some mud off the bottom. Pull it up and inspect it. What we are looking for is mud that is silky to the touch and contains a lot of little white specks. The white specks are crushed shells and clam spat. This is a good indication of a healthy bottom. If the mud is oozy and foul smelling, haul anchor and look for another spot.

Flounder aren't too fussy about the amount of water over their heads. They are more concerned with the temperature of the water rather than the depth of it. I've been successful in water shallower than 10 feet and deeper than 30 feet. As a general guideline, fish in deeper water on colder, cloudy days, and early in the season, while concentrating on shallow water and the flats on warm, sunny days. The reasoning behind this is that a large volume of water will take a long time to cool, and a smaller volume of water will heat up faster. Physics wasn't my strong point, so to put it simply, the deeper pockets of water will be warmer on a dull day, and the shallows will be warmer on a bright sunny day. So on bright sunny days you will probably find more flounder lying on the flats basking in the afternoon sun. When we're talking about warmer and colder water, you have to realize we are only talking about a change of a degree or two at the most. That's all it may take to trigger a feeding binge. Many tides a tidal change is all you need to alter the water temperature just a bit to stimulate the fish to start feeding.

While we are on the subject of tides, it seems that the height of the flounder's feeding activity is usually centered around a tidal change. Although you can certainly catch flounder during any stage of the tide, our crew seems to score more consistently during the period of three hours before high tide through two hours after high tide, with a lull usually around slack water. To us, the slack water period around low tide seems to be the most difficult time to catch consistently.

My favorite time is an early morning incoming tide when high tide is around 9AM. I like to get an early start to try and set up in my favorite spots before it gets too crowded. Remember we depend on chumming a lot and moving water is essential for the chum to work properly.

Almost all of our flounder fishing has been done at anchor, and I feel if anchoring up isn't done properly it can mean the difference between catching a few fish and really filling the bucket. If the wind isn't too strong you can get by with using just one anchor. When the winds are calm (hardly ever for me), I just set one anchor off the bow. Use enough scope to set your anchor, but be careful not to use too much scope because that will cause your boat to violently swing back and forth. A gentle swing is okay, and in fact, sometimes beneficial, but if you're constantly swinging back and forth, it's time to go to two anchors. I know it's twice as much trouble, and it's hard to find volunteers, but on my boat we compromise. I always offer to do half the work. I **throw out** the anchor, and someone else **pulls in** the anchor (rank has its privileges!). Seriously, if you know there are fish in the area and you are just picking a few, that second anchor off the stern (usually a smaller one) can make a world of difference.

One anchor off the bow, and another off the stern, should hold you in position on even the most windy days. Sometimes when no matter what you do at anchor you fail to raise a fish, it might pay to try drifting for flounder. This seems to work on calm days when the current is the only thing that affects your drift. If you locate some fish you can keep drifting around that area, or try anchoring again if the bites seem to be concentrated in a small spot. We try drifting around slack water when we are contemplating a move after the tide changes.

Chumming is always a subject of heated debate among dedicated flounder fishermen. I feel it is essential if you want to be successful in your pursuit of flounder, in any case it can do **nothing** to harm your chances. So especially during the spring, when you're trying to lure the flounder out of a long period of inactivity, I feel it's absolutely essential to chum. Many things can be used as chum and different people have their favorite recipes, but keep in mind chumming

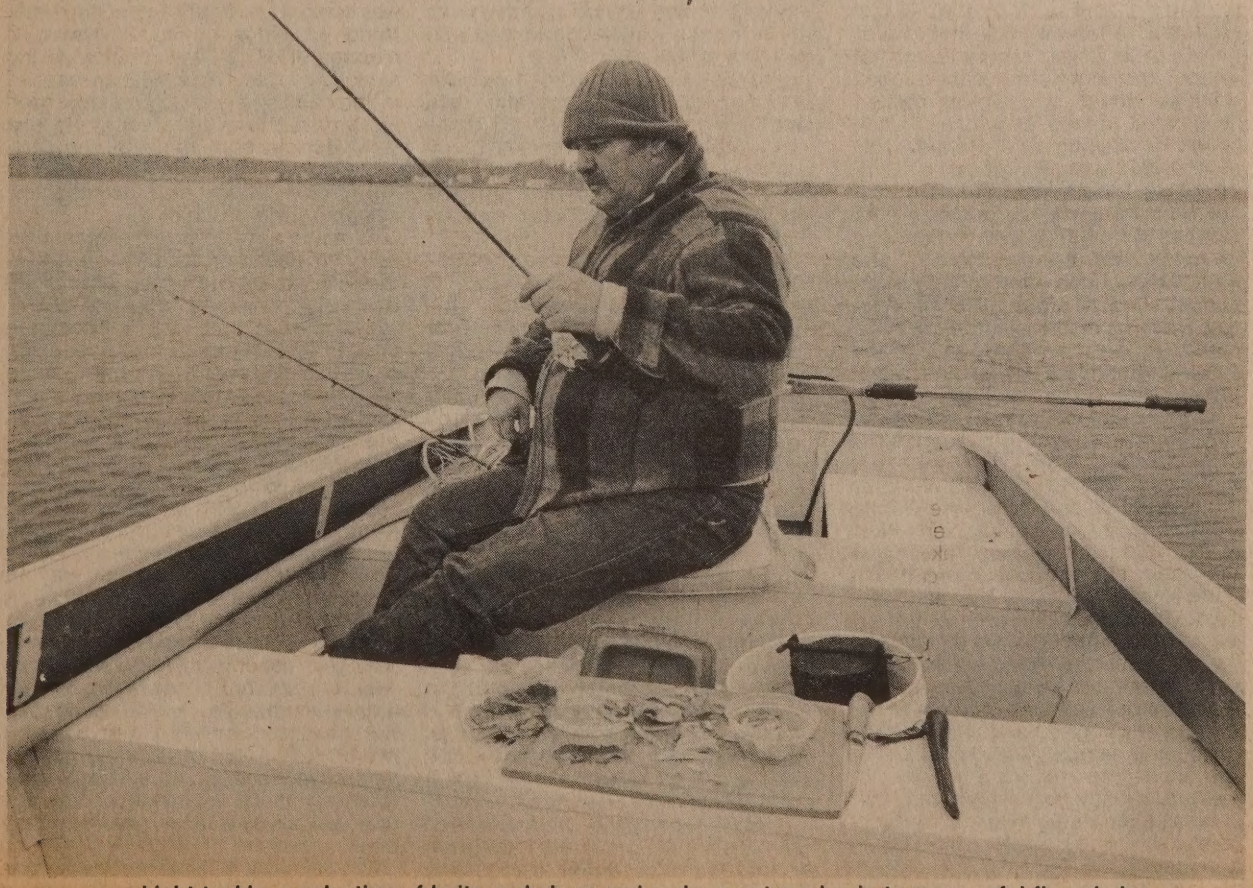
by definition means to lure and attract, not feed. I don't use anything exotic; I stick with those frozen containers of clams or even better yet, mussels (when you can find them) that you can get at most well stocked tackle shops. They are very convenient, fit right in the wire chum pot that I use, and are very effective. To me, filling a chum pot with crushed clams or mussels is a lot of extra work, and isn't as effective as the frozen stuff. Here is why. When you lower a chum pot filled with crushed clams or mussels, whatever juices aren't splattered all over my nice clean Aquasport, tend to dissipate in a matter of a few moments. All you are left with is a chum pot full of shells with a little meat on them. On the other hand, if you are using a frozen container of that stuff it **gradually** defrosts and leaches out into the current downstream, carrying its aroma right over the nostrils of a big, fat, hungry flounder.

Depending on the temperature of the water these containers of chum can last anywhere from one to two hours. Just make sure you take along enough of them, because chances are that you'll run out of them during a blitz. I usually pack three of them in the cooler; that seems to be about right for a full day's fishing. Even if you don't use them they can be refrozen for another trip. If you have your own secret recipe for chum that you can't live without, try grinding it up and freezing it and you might find that it will work even better. As an added attraction, every once in awhile we throw a few cracked mussels around the boat as well, but we never count on this being our main source of attraction. I'd prefer not to get into the moral pros and cons of using dried corn for chum, but ever since my Uncle Chink took me flounder fishing when I was little, and every time there was a lull in the action he just sprinkled a handful of corn around our lines, immediately like magic we caught more fish, I never leave the dock without it. Maybe I use corn because of sentimental reasons, but that day we caught over 200 flounder and I have yet to top that.

As far the art of chumming goes, there's a few other things I want to mention. First, make sure your chum pot has enough sinkers in it to keep it right on the bottom. The next thing is to try and place your chum pot uptide of your fishing lines. For example, if you were able to hold bottom with one anchor off the bow, lower your chum pot from the bow of the boat. If you are using anchors, drop your chum pot over the side of the boat facing uptide. The logic behind this is, as the chum dissipates into the current it will start to accumulate in a certain spot on the bottom downtide. How far downtide the chum will start to accumulate will depend on the strength of the current.

This is important because any flounder in the area that have caught a whiff of your chum will start to congregate right there. So obviously this is where we want to keep our hooks. We observed that when we anchored off the bow, and lowered the chum pot off the stern, the guys in the stern who cast their lines behind the boat a bit, consistently caught more than those fishing right under the boat. When we started chumming off the bow of the boat, the action was a lot closer to the stern which allowed the guys on the side of the boat to benefit from the stronger chum slick also. One more thing: the bigger the chum pot the stronger and longer the chum slick will be. Which means it will attract the attention of more flounder, which in turn, means more fillets in the cooler.

One trick it pays to try is to stir up the bottom of the area you intend to fish by dragging your anchor around. Flounder are inquisitive by nature and all this commotion on the bottom will entice them to investigate. During their investigation they will also start munching on any tidbits of food loosened up from the bottom. This natural chum slick plus your chum pot should be enough of an enticement to start flounder on their feed. Of course, it pays to have a sash weight or some other device aboard to stir up the bottom occasionally. Most of the time in order to do well you really have to work for your fish. More times than not, extra effort pays off.



Light tackle, a selection of baits and chum and a chum pot are basic to successful floundering.

THE SEA: A DEADLY SUITOR

by Capt. John DeMaio

Blame it on the lure of money, or a love of the sport, but too many people have drowned at Montauk last season. More people drowned in 1984 than I can recall in the entire 30 yeras I have been associated with this fishing community. I by no means am referring to the occasional summer tourist who gets caught in "the undertow." I am speaking of fishermen!

Commercial fishermen, because of the amount of time spent on the water, would be in the high danger category when it comes to disaster. The sheer weight of time alone is not the only factor. These men are forced to take on the elements to make a living. Anyone who enjoys being banged around on a three-day fishing trip on a very rough ocean is either seeking a macho image or is mentally deranged. You do it for the money. You push. We all can understand this; that's the business. If you don't like it, get out. Often the boat that braves the Atlantic when others dare not venture forth, returns with a good catch and can do well at the marketplace. This is true of winter. When winter is howling at its worst, the price of fish is at its highest.

There is more to fishing than catching fish. Like any other businessman, the boat-owning fisherman must go to the bank and borrow money. The price of money can often be very high. Our government offers little; he must do it alone. A boat mortgage must be paid. Dock bills, fuel, and maybe the last two trips were losers and really put you behind. So you push.

Maybe this was the case when four commercial men lost their lives in the spring of 1984. A little push and a lot of bad luck. Bad luck compounded by a negligent weather forecast. Marine weather forecasters called for winds at 20 to 30, easterly. It came screaming out of the east/southeast at 90 miles an hour. To this day, nothing has been found of either the boat or crew. As if the sea had simply devoured them. Other boats returned safely from the tempest. Some had twisted ships and bruised men; but they returned. Obviously, the unlucky four had an inadequate vessel for the job.

It should come as no surprise that tragedy could strike at home. Especially when you take into consideration the number of commercial vessels that are now sailing out of Montauk Harbor. There are so many, that they have long used up available dock space and now are rafting as many as three and four at some docks. The odds in favor of tragedy have been upped. Six fishermen have drowned at Montauk this past year.

Personal ambition, hard work, and love of the sea can add to the odds of tragedy striking and it is these three factors that make sport fishermen vulnerable. How else can you excuse an angler from losing his life at sea in bad weather? He doesn't have to be there when the sea rolls. What for? Money, love, or a compelling sense of adventure? Perhaps it's competition; a case of one-upmanship. Of course, there will always exist the case of the inexperienced seaman who may cause the death of himself and all others on board through poor seamanship or simply a lack of experience. Or the kids who take chances. But I am not referring to the novice or adventure seeker, rather to the experienced who know the score.

Sometimes experience can be your own undoing. Facing a situation you have been up against a hundred times before could make you careless. Like the strong swimmer who one day swims just a little too far from the shore. It doesn't always happen to the other guy.

Sometimes you need to be frightened. A minor mishap that cements your respect for the sea can do all the pushers some good. My father never took the doctors seriously. One massive heart attack and he died. The painful, scary experience of a minor heart attack would likely had aided him in a longer life. Every so often I learn the hard way. So far I have had my front windshield knocked out three times: Once when I was running home on a quartering southwest wind, and twice when I "asked for it." I enjoy casting and often get in very close to the beach. On one occasion it wasn't even rough. Just a lazy, small swell that would crest and roll casually to the beach. One such wave crested ahead of me, climbed over the trunk cabin and took out two windows. The force of this "casual wave" carried the safety-glassed center pane for eight feet, where it smashed over the head of a customer relaxing in the trolling chair. Between the repair bills and the destroyed electronics, that wave cost about $500. This experience wasn't scary, but the money hurt. You think I would have learned my lesson about five years prior to that; same situation—same place. While casting away at a few school bass in tight to the beach, I allowed another breaking wave to assault my windshield. This was on the old gasoline engine "Vivienne." An immense volume of water and broken glass put at least six inches of water over the cockpit floor. It also splashed its way into the open-doored companionway into the cabin, and on to the exposed engine. Saltwater was all over the spark plugs and wires. My six cylinder engine was misfiring badly and I was unable to move after engaging the clutch. The engine was about to stall. Slam! Another white foaming wave came aboard. By now the boat was within casting distance of the beach. The surfcasters were getting quite a show. I never left the wheel through all this. I couldn't, I was shaking so badly I needed something to hang on to. Anyway, I managed to get the engine firing smoothly in neutral and then banged in the clutch. The boat lurched ahead just in time to avoid another wave. I never looked back to see if the surfcasters were applauding. Believe it or not, one customer was down below sleeping through all of this.

Even though this mishap was a bit hairy, it never seemed life-threatening. My first concern was saving the boat from crashing onto the rocks. Thinking back on it, had the boat been pushed that far, there may have been a serious accident. In both these occurrences, the risk I took was a calculated one. My boat was aimed at the sea and entered the breaking waves bow first. Had the windows held there would not have been any concern for health or property. Permitting the boat to be hit broadside or at the stern can be a dangerous error. This can happen by not paying attention or by loss of power resulting in loss of control.

These incidents occurred during daylight, but I have had some close ones at night, too. When it happens at night it's really scary. You cannot see the wave coming until it's too late. More often than not you can hear it before you see it. A hissing noise catches your ear and you turn sharply to see a black wall of water coming down on you.

On the night of November 8th, last fall, I went out in the early evening to

try a little casting. It was still too early for the ebb tide, my first choice, so I tried working up front under the light on the flood. There was a sea running and getting in tight was not merely tricky, but dangerous. After making a couple of cautious "test" drifts, I began fishing on the drift. A repetition of drift, run up tide and drift! After awhile, on one of my runs up tide, a big sea loomed up at me, at my port side. I barely had time to turn into the five foot sea and take it on the quarter. The boat laid over on her starboard gunwale, shifting everything on deck. I held on to the wheel tightly and assumed the "crouch" position. Nothing happened. The wave crested after it passed me and the only damage was to my nervous system.

The lesson learned here is that the mood of the sea can change, particularly in a ground swell condition. At the top of the tide in the area of the Montauk Lighthouse the sea mounts. Only recently has someone given me a sensible explanation for this action. Even though the tide may show signs of flooding on the surface, below the water has begun to ebb. This would create a conflict such as wind against the tide and cause the sea to build.

My boat can take the credit for getting me through some tight spots. She is a heavy fiberglass hull with a full keel. When placed bow into a sea, it stays there. Even when being hit broadside the three foot draft and long keel will hold you steady. This is not the case with shallow draft outboards. When these lightweight vessels get caught in curl of a cresting wave, you're in serious trouble.

On the following night, Nov. 9, a well known bass fisherman, Artie Johnson, lost his life for many of the reasons I have already covered in this article. One angler survived; Artie never made it. Was he a victim of bad luck or did he indeed create his own bad luck.

The same conditions I encountered on Thursday night were now multiplied on Friday by a fresh breeze from the east/southeast. In short, it was damn miserable. His first mistake was in just being there, especially in the North Bar area. On a black night with the Atlantic Ocean trying to come ashore, this place is best described as evil. It was the wrong boat for the job. A twin engine open outboard. So between the weather, time of day, area and boat, both fishermen were taking an obvious risk.

Having been fishing for so long, I can understand why Artie took such a risk. The primary reason being he never considered it a risk! Just another rough night's fishing. Something he had done a countless number of times in his fishing career. There was no fear of losing your life, only being knocked about by the rough seas.

To say the man was out there for the money is not completely true and would be an injustice. His love for fishing was the motivation. I know that if I didn't like my work, no one could pay me enough money to work on a wet and smelly fishing boat. With Artie, I believe it was the case of the strong swimmer syndrome. He overdid it and pushed too hard.

None of this will change my attitude as much as the increasing years. With age comes the wisdom of just how fragile life is. Youth's belief of being indestructible slowly wanes. We are destructible. We can perish. I am not suggesting that we pursue our labor of love with an ever present attitude of fear. A healthy respect is what should be applied when making decisions.

I for one will now be wearing some type of flotation device on any night trips I make. There are some jackets that wear like a normal outer garment but will keep you afloat. Or perhaps a Mae West type cartridge vest that is not cumbersome and permits freedom of movement. In any case, common sense will keep you alive long than a life jacket. If you want to end up some leather-skinned old-timer with squinty eyes who hangs around the docks telling tall tales, don't push.

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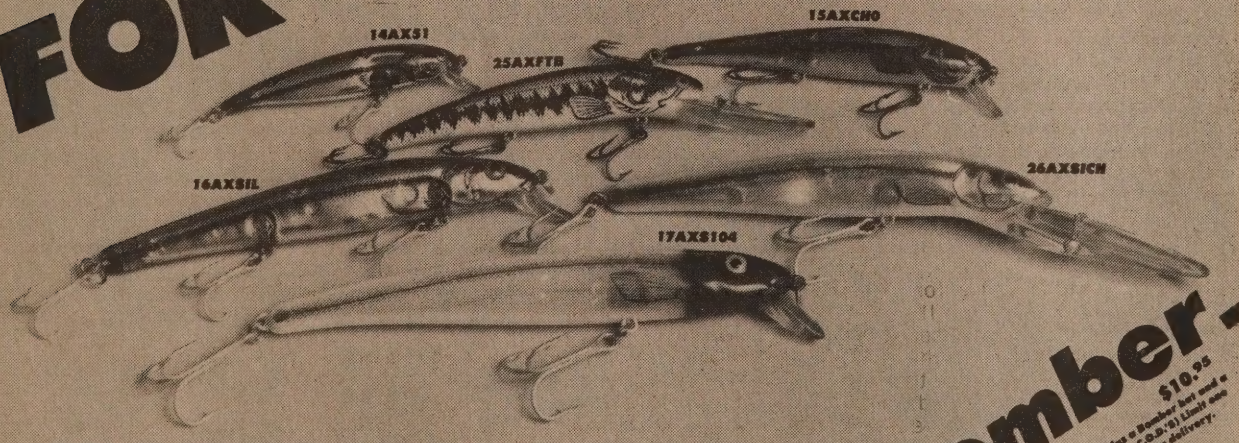

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THE PIGTAIL SLIDE

by Dick Mermon

This unique method of delivering a bait from the surf may be just the answer for casters intent on heaving cumbersome loads.

Surf fishermen always seem to be able to manipulate means of mastering obstacles within the realm of their sport. One stumbling block which through the years has not been broadened, is the ability to present soft, or burdensome baits a great distance from shore. Either the offering falls short of its mark, or is ripped from the hook by the force of the cast.

Ah, but there is good news from surf fishermen in our fiftieth state. Hawaiian anglers employ a very unique system called the "Pigtail Slide" by which they present an offering which is slid into the water, rather than cast. These surfmen fish from beaches of volcanic-strewn boulders, or rock shelves, where a 70 to 100 yard cast is vital to reaching productive surf.

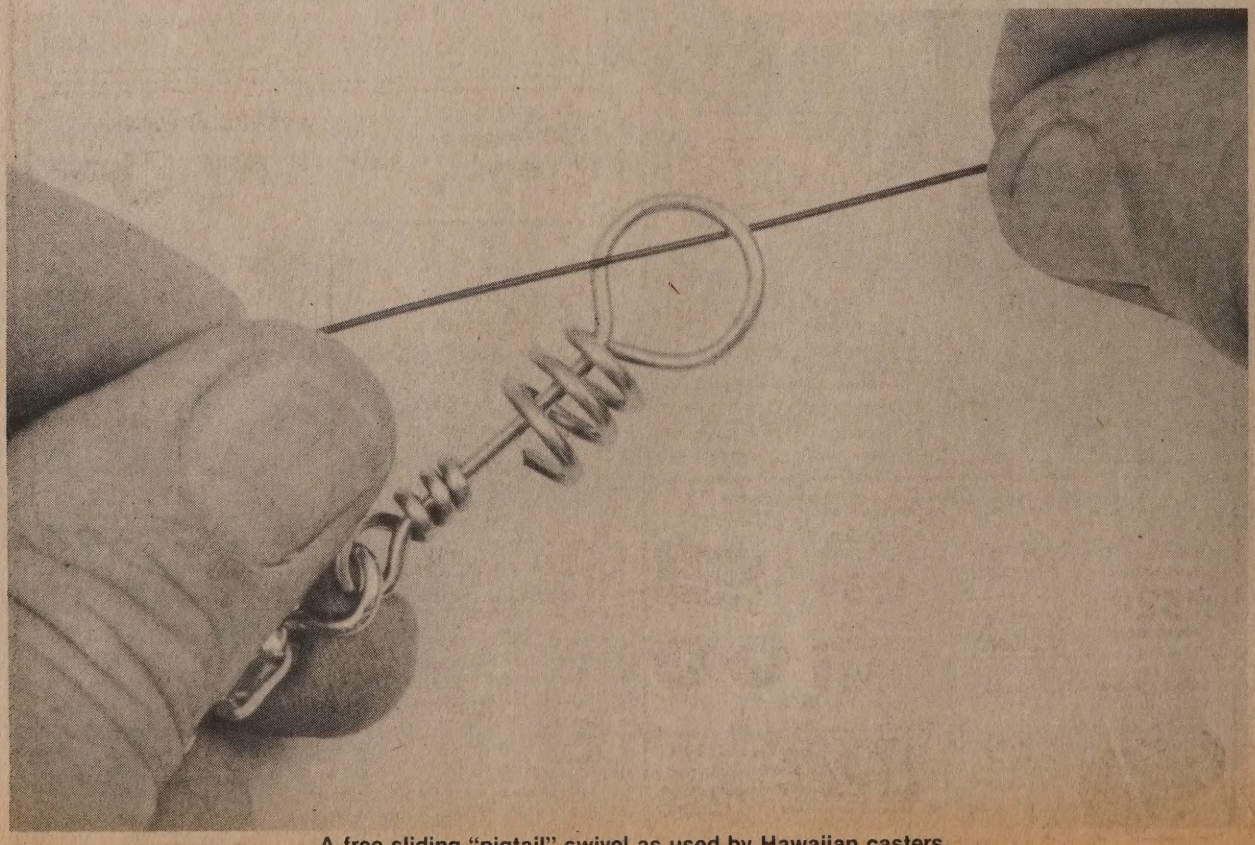
In order to obtain the required distance, casters use a "no bait" technique with a six to ten ounce sinker. Fastened to the sinker is a short section of monofilament or coated wire, to which is attached a small brass ring or split ring at least 5/8 inches in diameter. The working end of the line is now secured to the ring. This prevents the pigtail swivel from reaching the sinker, thus keeping the bait off of the bottom.

The lead weight, minus any leader, hook or bait, is cast out and permitted to descend to the bottom—which in Hawaii could be as deep as 300 feet. Once the sinker has been "set," the line is drawn taut and the rod placed into a fixed holder. A pre-selected length of monofilament (from six inches to three feet long) with a hook on one end, is attached to the barrel eye of the pigtail swivel. Bait at this time could be tender, bulky, or even alive, for it makes no difference because there is no force required to propel it. The swivel is merely twisted onto the tight line and permitted to slide down into the surf. Live bait has the freedom to swim the entire length from top to bottom, making it all the more appealing.

Bulky baits descend more rapidly than soft succulent ones and occasionally a small lead shot, attached to the leader will be required to submerge it. Cut baits of any size can now be utilized with greater success as well as sea worms, squid, clams, crabs, eels, mackerel or menhaden.

Should the slide not ride evenly down the line, a slight manipulation of the rod tip in an up and down motion will cause it to meander on into the surf. On our local beaches, currents will frequently assist your bait in reaching the anchored sinker.

Unfortunately, the original "Pigtail Swivel" can only be obtained in Hawaii. However, Sampo Company has a similar type called the "Corkscrew Snap," while both Bead Chain Tackle Co. and Berkley Company are working on their own designs which should be available to the surf fishing clan in the near future.



A free sliding "pigtail" swivel as used by Hawaiian casters.

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BY FRED GUARDINEER

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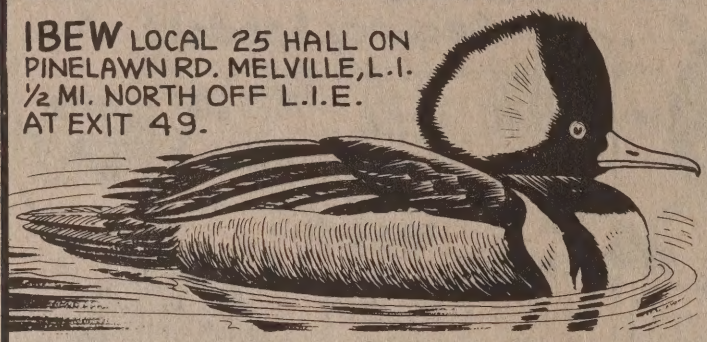

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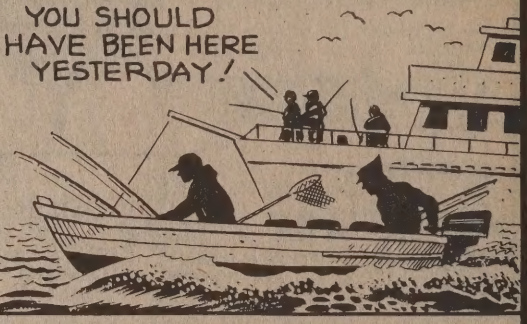

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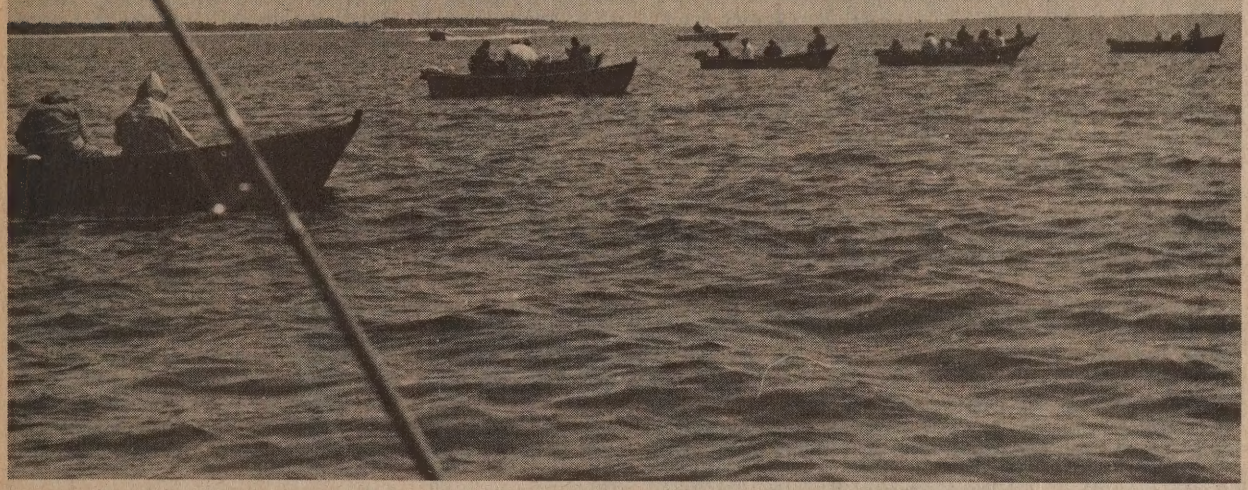
PRIMED FOR FLATTIES

by Drew Springer



Most Long Island Sound anglers depend on the scrappy flounder to get the ball rolling.

For most Long Island Sound anglers, the season gets under way around St. Patrick's Day as we seek the delicious little flatfish known as winter flounder in almost every bay on the north shore. Impatient beach rats often start long before this unofficial opening day, freezing their butts on shore somewhere, futilely watching spike-held rods for feeble flounder bites. Most always, these early efforts are a waste of time, fish-wise. More than anything else, they are merely an excuse to get out of the house. Fish are funny people, you know. No matter how warm we think the past winter may have been, our finny friends will not stir until water temperatures reach levels within which they are comfortable. Sure, a warm spell may induce some hungry individuals into seeking succulent marine tidbits on clean, soft bottom structure, but the bulk of the species wait for compatible water temperatures to become fairly consistent before they start an annual migration invasion.

At that time, and at that time only, flounder swarm inshore into shallow water. They prefer clean, fairly soft bottom comprised of sand, mud or clay, usually sprinkled with minute shell life and/or gravel. They feed on clams, mussels, sea worms and grass shrimp, plus a host of shellfish sprat and prefer water depths of from 6 to 20 feet. Water depths may be deep or shallow as dictated by water temperature and availability of food, but from 6 to 20 feet is a normal average. Spawning can be a long, drawn-out affair that can last two or three months, as stocks of new arrivals replace depleted early fish, but this long reproductive period does not interfere with flounder appetites in the least and they are taken continuously. There seems to be an influx of big fish at the onset, early in March, but these spawners move out into the Sound after a week or two, replaced by a larger population of smaller fish that take up more permanent residence. A second run of big fish occurs at a later date, often near the end of April, but these soon disappear after a short visit inshore, probably headed to deeper water out east or offshore. Once again, these fish are replaced with hordes of smaller flounder.

Certain particular areas seem to attract flounder on a regular basis. The prime consideration for such attraction would be the availability of food atop preferred bottom structure. Flounder are not a far-ranging species by any means; most of their movement is within the confines of a specific area. They feed by foraging in clean, soft bottom for such food as a wide variety of marine worms, grass shrimp, and a host of shell life, including bivalves and univalves—tiny clams or broken oysters and mussels, piggyback snails, etc. It is fairly safe to say that if it is soft and edible, the flounder will eat it, but they are not equipped to break open hard-shelled stuff like skimmer clams or little neck and cherrystone clams, oysters, scallops and mussels. This soft-mouthed fish must rely on some help before they can get at the tasty meat inside, help provided by commercial dredgers or natural storms that disturb the bottom. Astute anglers often seek dredgers at work, knowing that flounder will be close at hand to reap the harvest of broken shells created during the process. We often disturb the bottom outselves to simulate such action, releasing tiny bits of food that act as a magnet and attact flounder to within striking range of our baited hooks.

Chumming is a very good method to draw flounder close, and we scatter cracked clams and/or mussels around the boat or smash them in chum pots and jiggle those pots under the boat to get the job done. Bouncing the weighted pot on bottom every so often releases tiny bits of flesh that float downtide along with the natural oils and scents of the chum to perk up

(Continued on next page.)

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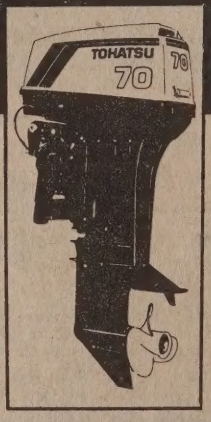

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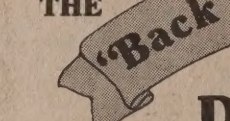

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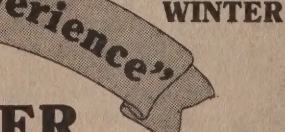

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flattie appetites, or whet them to the point where the fish will work uptide to locate the source of interest. If your baited hooks are in proximity to the chum pot, chances are that they will become ingested by some hungry flounder. By bouncing your sinker on and off the bottom several times, you will raise puffs of mud that the fish have learned to associate with food, and by lifting your rod in a long, slow ascent you will feel the fish actually hanging on to the bait as it tries to vacuum it into its mouth. A short, sharp jerk upward on the rod is often enough to sink the barb, but if not, a repetition of the bouncing, lifting technique should produce the desired result.

There are several other means of attracting flounder, not the least of which is to chum with kernel corn. Though certainly not part of the flounder's natural diet by any means, the corn is eagerly eaten and has even become part of our hook baits. We impale one kernel and slide it up the hook shank to the eye, then thread on a piece of worm, clam or mussel, providing a combo bait that also acts as an attractor. Old-timers scatter crushed egg shells, rice and even pebbles around the boat to serve as attractors as they flutter and flash on the descent. This works well at times also, but is not to be misconstrued as chum in any case.

Because they are a small fish, tiny tackle is the way to go here for increased sensitivity, greater fun, and believe it or not, increased catches. You don't have to use spinning outfits to go light either, although freshwater class spin gear and light line is an excellent choice. We have a ball and derive great satisfaction with light conventional tackle while feeling more comfortable at the same time. A light rod, tiny baitcasting reel and line in the 8 or 10 pound class do a magnificent job without creating any wrist fatigue, as often occurs when using spinning tackle.

There are almost as many favorite flounder baits as there are fishermen, and it seems that everyone has their own particular choice. We lean heavily on sand worms in the western Sound, yet mussels appear to be most popular from Smithtown Bay east. Blood worms, the overwhelming choice on the south shore, do not appear to be overly popular in the Sound and clams are not in demand very much either. You gotta play the game by the home team rules, however, and we firmly believe in using whatever bait is the predominant favorite wherever we fish. At one point we used to make it a point to dig tape or ribbon worms for our flounder fishing efforts because we honestly believed this to be the ultimate flattie bait of all. Time has a way of mellowing your thinking though, and lately we have had to succumb to the convenience of settling for store-bought sand worms. Actually, the wise angler collects a pailful of bank mussels, thereby settling bait and chum

problems at the same time. It is a good idea to go forth with at least two different baits though, as fickle feeding habits are a trademark of flounder. Quite often, the mere change of tides will switch this fish off one bait and on to another, and if you cannot meet the challenge you are S.O.L. (Simply Outta Luck!).

The diminutive size of these fish merely serves to emphasize its incredibly small, toothless mouth, a mouth geared to sucking-in and swallowing-down soft baits. What they do is root around in the mud until they sniff something delicious, a worm maybe, or the siphon of a softshell clam, then they vacuum the soft stuff into their gullets, whole. You'd be surprised at the length of some of the worms those suckers inhale, yet in deference to their tiny mouths we use tiny pieces of bait. Actually, to use anything less than half a worm is foolish on our part because the big fish like big baits. Sure, you can catch big fish on small baits from time to time, but for sheer consistency, big baits will get 'em every time. What we do is stick the point of the hook into the mouth of the worm, then run the worm around the hook bend and up the shank, to the eye, sort of like stringing beads, you might say. The clincher though, is to stop stringing a little bit short and let the rest of the worm (or clam, or whatever) trail off the hook in a nice, straight, naturally appealing manner. The flounder start ingesting the trailing piece and actually suck in the hook as they get to the rest of the bait. Of course, dealing with such small mouths, you should realize that small hooks are mandatory. The two most popular hooks are Sproats and Chestertowns in sizes 8 and 10.

Once flounder fishing gets under way, north shore party boats usually start out inside Oyster Bay, close to shore, near the railroad tracks. Local rental and private boats generally take advantage of local waters, fishing such places as Port Washington, Manhasset, Little Neck, College Point, Pelham Bay, Eastchester Bay, or any one of the many small beaches between the points that dot the north shore shoreline. On the Westchester scene, Glen Island is popular, as is most of the shoreline between New Rochelle and Rye. The old CBS tower always attracts a lot of small boats, as does Hart Island, but too many of us tend to overlook the obvious. Very often, the waters close to home can prove highly productive, but everyone hightails it away from the marina as fast as possible it seems, never stopping on the way out to the "hot-spot" to evaluate the potential of waters literally in front of our very noses. If nothing else, some time should be devoted on a regular basis, towards exploring areas not normally considered worthwhile. You may be pleasantly surprised by the discovery of good spots close by at times. It's certainly worth a try, especially in the early part of the season, when we are "primed for flatties."

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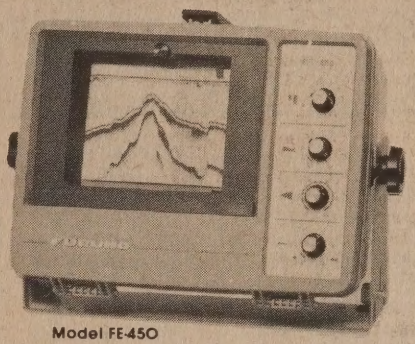
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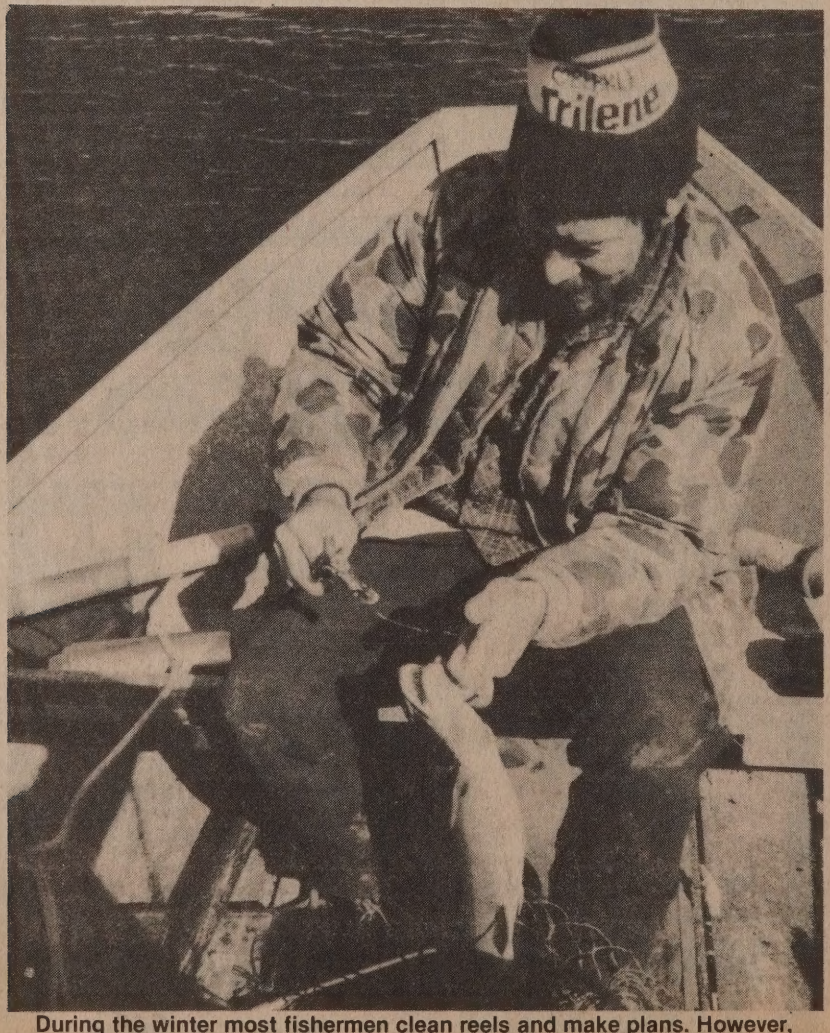
— TRAVEL SPECIAL —

DRIFTING FOR STEELHEAD

by Pete Miller

During the winter, especially late winter, most fishermen have gone through the ritual of cleaning their reels, sorting through their lures, and making plans for the upcoming months. A small but growing number of anglers have found a fabulous steelhead fishery centered in Pulaski, New York and in particular the Salmon River. Throughout the winter many of these anglers put up with the deep snow and cold temperatures tempting these supercharged rainbow trout with a variety of offerings the most common being the spawn sac. Beginning in February a thaw generally occurs initiating a gradual warming trend. As this happens the steelhead both increase in numbers and activity. It is at this time that perhaps the most exciting manner of taking these great fish comes into its own. A steelhead smashing a line generates a tremendous amount of excitement—for more than the gentle, almost imperceptible pick-up of the egg sac.

My 1984 fishing season was officially initiated by a call from the well-known Pulaski fishing guide and charter captain: Ron Clark. The steelhead, he reported, had begun responding well to lures and would I like to come up to sample the fishing. In spite of the fun I was having fighting the waves and the weather as a commercial lobsterman, I tore myself away with a friend, Jim Mills (no relation), an avid fisherman and hunter who, being a landscaper, had some free time.



During the winter most fishermen clean reels and make plans. However, a small, but growing number of anglers have found a fabulous steelhead fishery in the Salmon River near Pulaski, New York.

The technique Ron employs is without a doubt the most efficient and comfortable manner of taking these fish. This technique involves the use of a West Coast drift boat and the Luhr Jensen Hot Shot as the lure. After a restful night at the Wig Wam Motel located in Sandy Pond, the two of us joined Ron for coffee at his house and headed to the bridge at Altman where we put the boat in the water. As we eased toward the first pool behind the schoolhouse in Altman we let out three Hot Shots each exactly ten passes of the level-wind Daiwa 27H about 50 feet behind the boat. Placing one rod against the bow of the boat which is facing downstream and each holding one of the other two we waited in anticipation for the jar of a strike. The idea of fishing the three Hot Shots at the same distance is that as the fish moves from side to side avoiding the intrusion of each lure, it encounters another lure causing additional irritation. If a strike is not immediately forthcoming, the steelhead may be backed gradually to the tail of the pool at which point its aggression frequently causes it to strike one of those intruders. As Ron guided the boat toward the end of the pool the anticipation grew. "Middle rod!" Ron shouted as the rod in the holder bent into an arc and a steelhead exploded on the surface. Jim grabbed the rod and proceeded to wage a battle with a very determined steelhead. After about 15 minutes a beautiful 15 pound hen fish was placed on the bottom of the boat. The ice had been broken. The next pool quickly produced a strike but the fish was able to free itself from the lure after several spectacular jumps.

Ron fishes only areas that he has found to hold fish. To the inexperienced most of the water looks like good holding water—very fishy. Steelhead, however, show a specific preference

for a fraction of the good looking water. Too many of the anglers watching from the bank were unknowingly fishing water that held few if any fish, Ron explained. The beauty of the river and the comfort of the boat slightly dulled my senses as the steelhead smashed the pink Hot Shot at the end of my line. Being in an especially fast moving pool, Ron quickly rowed the boat into a calmer back eddy from which the fish could ultimately be led into. Again, the fight was formidable but in the end Ron scooped it into his landing net. On many occasions those fish show a definite preference for color. Some days it is chartreuse; others it may be pink, or copper; white or a combination. On this day there seemed to be no well defined preference. The fish would alternate hitting the chartreuse, copper, and pink lures. To be prepared for the usually fickle taste for wide range of colors, Ron carries several tackle boxes loaded with Hot Shots of almost every color imaginable. In fact as Luhr Jensen comes out with new colors and combinations, they are sent to Ron who is an actual field tester for the company

Continuing down the river we proceeded to have at least a strike at almost every place we stopped to fish. Time and time again we passed groups of fishermen wading and fishing spawn sacs with little success. Ron explained that the recent rains had caused the Niagara-Mohawk Power Company to continually release water from its hydroelectric facilities upstream at the Salmon Reservoir. Although this meant an increased movement of fish into the river, the fish were more spread out in the pools making it harder to place a spawn sac in front of one. When the water levels drop as a result of resting the turbines upstream, the fish are consolidated in the deeper pools and dense concentrations of steelhead result. Unfortunately, these fish present an irresistible temptation for too many fishermen who, using their spawn sac as a single hook grappling device proceed to fowl hook an ungodly quantity of these splendid fish. Sadly, this practice accounts for a high percentage of the fish that are caught. Many of the remaining fish become extremely skittish. A big advantage of the drift boat is that one can move easily; cover much water and find fish that have not been molested.

At the last holding area just upstream from the take-out point a bright fish, fresh from the lake, blasted a chartreuse Hot Shot almost immediately. Taking to the air, the steelhead covered the entire pool as it fought to free itself from the lure. Heavy current prompted Ron to again ease the boat into quieter water where the nine pounder was eventually brought to net. This brought our total to five fish kept, the largest being the previously mentioned 15 lb. hen. Being allowed three fish apiece, we again proceeded to fish the rest of the pool hooking and losing at the boat a nice fish of about 12 to 15 pounds.

For those who would like to sample some of this fishing several things should be pointed out. First, the power company seldom releases enough water to make the drift on weekends. For this reason as well as the vast crowds of weekend anglers, a weekday should be chosen. This fishing begins during the first rainy period of November, slows down around the end of December due to cold water temperature and ice flows in the river. As early as the beginning of February, if a thaw develops, the action starts in earnest and lasts into the middle of May at which time most of the fish have returned to the lake. Motel reservations should be made in advance; and besides the Wig Wam at Sandy Pond (1-315-387-9918) there are excellent accommodations at Salmon Acres Lodge located in Pulaski (1-315-298-6173) where the gracious owner Sylvia will prepare a home cooked meal or pack a lunch as part of the daily rate. A word of caution not to invite this diminutive lady to partake in your evening poker game as the price of staying at the lodge is likely to rise in direct proportion to the stakes.

Ron can be reached at his home in Sandy Pond in the evening at 1-315-387-5516. A more aggressive, pleasant, and knowledgeable guide is hard to find.

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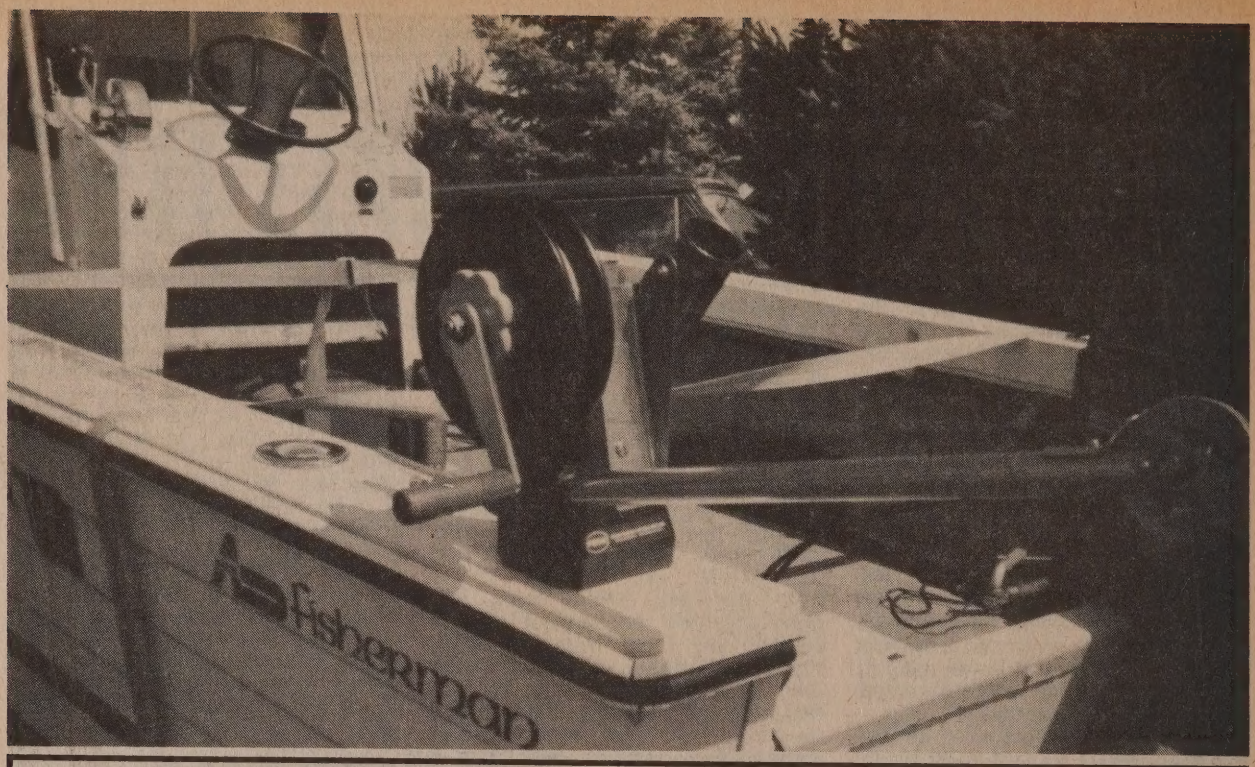

A LOOK AT DOWNRIGGERS

by Jim White & John Jollie

Downriggers are weird-looking contraptions, not at all difficult to use and very easy to install. One plate mounts the downrigger on your transom gunnel and when the unit is removed the plate is not at all in the way. The rest of the unit consists of a large spool which holds the cable. This can be from 75 to 200 feet of 135 or 200 lb. test stainless steel cable. An arm, called a "boom" runs alongside the spool. This arm is of various lengths running from 12 to 48 inches depending upon the unit and what it's going to be used for. Some even run up to 8 feet, at the end of this is two rotating pulleys which the cable runs over. The cable is attached to a weight usually called a "cannonball," but also comes in fish shapes. These also vary in weight depending upon what type of water will be fished.

A line release mechanism, attaches to the trolling weight which serves the same purpose as a release clip on an outrigger. Some of these release clips can also be attached to the cable (instead of) or together with the ball. This enables the fishermen to achieve a stacking effect and fish many different depths at the same time.
let your line out to a distance that your lure works properly. This, however, is a very critical decision. Many fishermen have the tendency to let out too much line! Depending on the type lure used it can throw off the depth at which you think you're fishing. For example, if you let out, say 40 or 50 feet of line when you lower your cannonball, to say 50 feet, your lure will probably be swimming at somewhere around 44 to 46 feet. With all the extra line out it will have a rising effect on the lure and line, especially heavier line. This could mean the difference between catching fish and no fish at all. This is not as critical with trolling spoons because they tend to run truer. Just remember that the amount of line let out is critical to the depth at which the lure will run. Don't be afraid to keep it close to the ball. Recent studies on this has shown that the ball (trolling weight) does not affect the fish catching abilities of the lure even when only five or six feet behind the ball.

The line is now placed in the release mechanism and the weight lowered. Your reel should be placed in free spool and the click put on. Until you get used to lowering the weight, it's a good idea to thumb the spool to avoid any backlashes. Once the line is at its desired depth, put the reel back in gear and tighten the line until a pronounced curve develops. Upon hooking a fish, your line will pop out of the release mechanism and you'll be fighting the fish alone. We have found that if you're using one or two rods, someone else on board should reel up the cable each and every time a fish is taken on that particular rigger. It's safer and may save the loss of an expensive cannon-

The rod you should use should be long, between 7 to 8 feet, to enable you to obtain that curve in the rod. There are now specialty downrigger rods being made by many manufacturers. These are fiberglass or graphite and graphite composite rods running from 8 to 9½ feet long. They handle 10 to 30 pound test line and handle lures from 1/2 to 2 ounces depending on the make and manufacturer. These rods are long and quite whippy. At first look, you might think it's not suited to saltwater fishing, but that couldn't be farther from the truth.

We use Kunnan West Coast Steelhead Rods for our downrigger. They are 8½ feet medium action rated 10 to

20 lb. test line and 1/2 to 1½ oz. lures. Fitted with Shimano Bantam 350s we've landed three bass up to 40 lbs. and 2-16 lb. blues. So the tackle is sufficient to do the job.

What makes this system so nice is that even inexperienced fishermen can fish deep water rips or even lakes without too much trouble at all. There's no counting out colors or footage, to see if you're down far enough. With the aid of a graph recorder you just lower to the desired depth. In water, say 40 feet or more you'll be able to even track your ball while trolling, thus enabling you to make adjustments to fish movements. New downrigger fishermen and even some old pros forget the distance between the end of the boom and the water line. Depending upon the type of boat you have that could be a considerable distance. Don't forget to subtract that from the cable meter count when you lower the ball. On our boat it's 2½ feet to the water line. We've marked that on the boom in ink just in case we forget.

Downriggers can also be used for drifting with fluke, drifting live bait and in ponds and lakes. In fluke drifting it gives you an extra rod in the water with a whole squid, sand eel or mummie trailing while you jig or drift another bait. For bait fishing, we've put buckies, pogies and mackerel on ours and lowered them down while live lining others. In freshwater their uses are just being discovered by black bass fishermen, trolling in 20 or 30 feet of water with crankbaits or live shiners around underwater structure is proving to be a hot item. It enables you to troll in tight circles close to deep suspended fish and drag your bait or lure right before their eyes. This eliminates letting out 100-200 feet of line to accomplish the same objective. Most all units on the market now have slip clutches built in, in case you snag an underwater object. Many units now also have swivel base plates, to enable easier rigging and swing back to fishing position.

* * *

Riviera Tackle Co. Riviera offers six different models, three of which are electric. Their model 2900 is their top of the line offering digital depth readout and digital temperature reading. The model 100 Sport-Trol is light, compact and affordable for almost everyone.

Mac-Jac. Offers easy one-hand operation. Swivels and locks 180 degrees. Features a quick release slip clutch which prevents cannonball loss. The unit is removable in just a few seconds. The spool is rust proof ABS plastic with lifetime steel bushing. A 14'' fiberglass arm with roller guides comes with 15; ft., 150 lbs. steel wire with a 24'' boom. Mac-Jac Mfg. Co. Inc., 1590 Creston, P.O. Box 821, Muskegon, MI 49943.

Invader II. Has a fabricated aluminum base tower that is black anodized, and a black high impact plastic cable wheel. Manual models are equipped with a slip clutch that automatically disengages when you begin rewinding the cable. Includes a 3 position pole holder that can be mounted on either side. The downrigger rotates easily to bring the weight to you for easy rigging. Offers 8 different models with booms from 3 to 8 feet. The 8 foot boom retracts to 4 feet for storage. Four models are electric. K-Line Industries Inc., 315 Garden Ave., Holland, MI 49423.

Walker. Walker offers three different models. The Little Laker, Manual Deep Troller and Electric Deep Troller. A full 2-year freshwater warranty and 1-year saltwater. Revolution drive counter which subtracts for opposite direction. Controlled down speed prevents weight jerking and line breakage. Low amperage 12 volt motor with built-in overload cut-out. A waterproof rocker switch comes with 20'' arm. Four and five foot arms for 90 degree trolling are extra. Whole unit weighs only 7 pounds. Right or left hand models at no additional charge. Impervious to saltwater includes deck mounting plate, 200 feet of 150 lb. braided stainless steel wire, emergency manual handle line repair kit, arm adjusting Allen wrench, Walker line release kit, adjustable drag. Walker International Pacific Atlantic Products, 395 S. Pitcher St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

Big John. Big John Downriggers offers four models from a small compast ''Bass Rigger'' to Big John Jr. electric with 4 feet boom which has a multidisc clutch and can be retrieved manually, includes tip-up mount, counter wire, release kit plate and 5 amp manual reset button. Big John also has many useful accessories which complement their line of downriggers. Big John, Inc., 14393 Pennsula Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684.

Penn. This name is well known to the marine angler for quality and dependability. Their two most famous models are the Penn 600 and Penn 620 with the only difference being in the size of the boom. The 620 is 48'' and the 600 has a Swivel-Matic base permitting 180 degree rotation of the boom which can be mounted on either side of the boat or transom. Tension is adjustable for pushing boom into desired position, while tow line guide attached to boom tip will prevent the cable from jumping. Pulley unit removes easily for storage with one large screw nut. The Fathom-Master drag system provides one hand operation when lowering and stopping the troll weight. All parts are durable, non-corrosive materials and all metal parts are either stainless steel, anodized aluminum or chrome Iplates brass. Comes with 200 feet of 135 lb. test stranded stainless steel cable. An optional rod holder 610 RH is available at an extra charge which attaches right to the downrigger. Penn Fishing Tackle, 3028 W. Hunting Park Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19132.

Cannon. Cannon offers so many different types and styles of downriggers it would be impossible to list all of them. They range from the Pac A-Rigger up to the Magnum Electric models. Cannon claims they are designed to look like part of your boat, and as far as downriggers go, they probably are the best looking too (if looks are that important to you). All are built on a strong aluminum frame, electric models can also be operated manually in case something should happen to your battery. An auto-switch for raising the weight when your hands are full (of fish) shuts off automatically when it reaches the top. A non-fouling cable reel, easy to adjust slip clutch, built-in depth meter that slides in and out for easy setting, 200 feet of 135 lb. stainless steel cable, boom with swivel head, deck plate locking nut comes with a rod holder and electric models have 6 foot power cable. Cannon/S&K Products, 1732 Glade St., Muskegon, MI 49441.

Fish Tek. Fish Tek One and Two is the newest and probably the most advanced on the market today. Fish Tek controlled depth trolling systems are designed to provide exacting controls when deep trolling at precise speed and temperature ranges. Component parts are stainless steel, brass and hard anodized aluminum. Features included on the Fish-Tek I, pre-set selectable depth, LCD depth display memory, retractable shaft, tilt lock, guide single-screw disconnect. Unit is complete, ready to mount with wire, release and cannonball. Rod holder and audible trip alert are optional. Fish Tek II includes all those features plus bait speed display, temperature display and a selectable temperature seek. How's that for sophistication!

Luhr Jensen. Famous for their lures on taking salmon trout and steelhead, Luhr Jensen also makes a fine downrigger. The Auto-Trac II is the cheapest model having a short arm boom. The Auto Trac III is a long arm version with swivel side plate for side mounting. Jensen also offers an Auto-Electric system equipped with a high torque 12 volt electrical system that is powerful enough to retrieve the cable at 100 feet per minute. This can also be used as a manual unit, short arm or 4 foot booms are available.

Their downriggers feature a rudder release system. The release is on the cable instead of the ball. Tension is ajdusted with four different tension slots in which a nylon button, with line fits into. But there is an automatic magnetic release to give the fishermen a full range of different settings. Luhr Jensen & Son Inc., W. May St. Road, Hood River, OR 97031.

So there you have a look at some of the better units on the market. If you don't already own a downrigger you might want to consider one for next season. It'll open up a whole new world of fishing to you that you never though possible. See you on the water.

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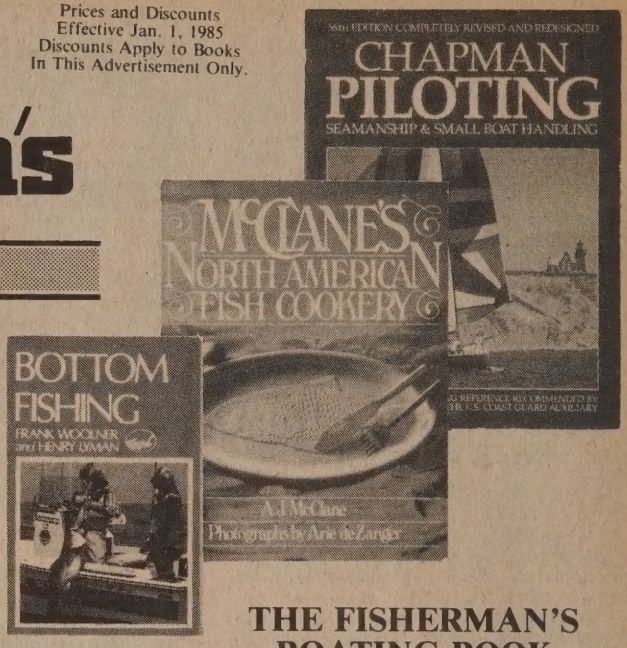

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East End REPORT
with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Weather has been the major factor in codfishing during this past winter. At one point, just when the bait (herring, sand eels) was stacked up nicely close to Montauk Point, the East Coast was hit with a major storm accompanied by two days of over 60 mile an hour winds, blowing the bait way and chilling the waters to its lowest point. Things are now getting back to normal, with cod catches improving and increasing numbers of large (to 51 lbs.) hake and some pollock. Flounder are stirring. Warm, windless days with incoming tides providing the best chance in normal early spots.

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Captain John DeMaio tried an exploratory cod trip over the weekend on the **Vivienne**. He and a friend boated 26 cod, largest 20 lbs., in just three hours of fishing. Captain DeMaio has a few open dates for March cod charters and expects a good spring run of cod.

Moriches Anglers members Gil Rinderman and Mike Contessa tried their luck on the **Viking Starship** last Wednesday. Gil reported that approximately 29 cod, the largest 20 lbs., were caught on the boat. Gil was a pool winner with a 40 lb. hake. On Saturday, Capt. Mike Bock fished a few wrecks south of Block Island as well as Cartwright, finding most of his cod off Cartwright; approximately 38 cod, the largest 15 lbs. for 38 fares. Sunday, the catch improved dramatically! Forty fares hauled in 80 cod, averaging 12-18 lbs. in weight with the pool fish caught by Charles Make of Malvern, N.Y. topping the scales at 45 lbs. Paul Davis of Islip was high hook with 6 cod to 25 lbs. The **Viking Starship** fished south of the point, where Capt. Bock found loads of both sand eels and herring.

A reminder that the **Viking** Spring Codfish Derby started this weekend and will run until May 27; $1 will get you in the derby. Unfortunately, the 45 lb. cod caught on Sunday was not entered. Last season more than 30 cod weighing over 50 lbs. apiece were brought aboard the **Starship**! The 1984 Cod Derby was won by a 63 lb. cod, although three cod weighing over 65 lbs. were caught, the anglers did not cough up the extra $1 before they fished. The Derby will be awarded to the anglers catching the two largest fish, first place will get two-thirds of

the money; second one-third.

SOUTH FORK

Flounder are stirring in the Shinnecock Canal, with elbow to elbow fishermen vieing for the early fish over the weekend. A real life drama occurred Friday, March 1st, when an oldtimer blacked out while baiting up and fell into the Canal. Fortunately, six fishermen immediately came to his rescue with ropes and a ladder, with the lockman calling the Town Police. The oldtimer was driven home to Commack by George Hodum and his friends, given a warming bath and put to bed. Last reports were that he is well and thanks to all came to his rescue!

Speck's Bait & Tackle is open every day with Thom Speckenback having high hopes for a good early flounder season. All baits, worms, fresh bank mussels, and skimmers, are now available. Thom suggests that flounder fans should try the Quogue Canal now, Sag Harbor, Cedar Point, and Noyac in Mid March, and Three Mile Harbor, Promised Land at the end of March. Of course this schedule holds only if the weather does.

Rosemary at **Corr's Mariners Cove** stated that she has seen signs of fishing activity the past few weeks. Her rental boats will be ready soon. Call the marina for further information.

An exploratory trip with friends Guy Maio, Matt Hazan, and Jack Taublib on Saturday found flounder of varying sizes from Buoy 7A westward to Buoy 54. It must be noted that Buoy 7A in the Quogue Canal was removed by the Coast Guard last year, so don't try to find it. Just look for the boats! At a Westhampton launch ramp at the end of the day we met a group who trailored from Rockland County: Ron Keeser and his 7 year old son, Blaise Guiliano, Charlie Goyette, and Frank Fisher, who kept about 60 flounder from ¾ to 1½ lbs. Their trick was very heavy chumming with crushed mussels. Their largest fish were caught at Buoy 54.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Both flounder and the weather teamed to provide a pleasant combination for weekend anglers in these parts. While boat men did have to contend with some moderate northwest breezes, most were more than willing to forego the whipping for the action at hand, particularly after the long winter layoff. Codfishing was another story with very picky fishing the rule throughout the week. White perch satisfied a handful of light tackle buffs in a number of tidal creeks between Patchogue and Lindenhurst.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Flounder action in Quogue canal remained hot over the weekend according to Larry Dallaire of **L&M Marine** in East Moriches. Larry did note that a lot of smaller fish were mixed in with the catches this week—a sure sign that the fishing began well before most anglers began their fishing. Expect some of those bigger flatties to be showing up in the bay shortly. Back to the fishing in the canal, Larry reported that while some boats landed as many as 200 flounder, most managed an average of 50 keepers. Kevin Speerin and Larry Bottari returned with 80 keepers, most in the 1 to 1½ lb. range on Saturday. They used mussel chum, mussel bait and bloodworms fishing between buoys 7 and 8.

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lily Fishing Station** in East Moriches said he

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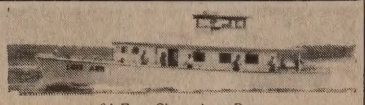

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expects the fishing in the bay to open up very soon. He reminds customers he will have boats and baits ready to go for the coming weekend.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Joe Modica of **J&J Tackle** in Patchogue passed along several reports of good flounder action near Forge River in Mastic over the weekend. He also heard of a few flatties being taken near the mouth of Browns River in Sayville. No local dock activity due primarily to lack of people trying. Joe reminded that the store now has a full line of flounder bait and chum in stock.

Speaking from **J&R Sports Center** in Oakdale, Al Colban had plenty of flounder news to relay. Joseph Scaduto, along with his children Steve, Linda and Joey showed off a catch of 20 flatties up to 1.8 lbs. made on Sunday in the Shinnecock Canal. On Saturday Bob Johnson and friends fished the canal and returned with 11 flatties including fish of 1.5 and 1.1 lbs. Bill Smith of Bay Shore, along with his daughters Carrie Ann and Angela Marie culled 19 flounder from the east bank of the canal on Sunday. They used mussels and red dyed clams. Closer to home, the Heckscher Park flounder grounds provided a couple of impressive scores. John Stier and friends Ken and John aboard the Weekend Warrior totaled 65 flatties up to 1.8 lbs. on Sunday. Same day, aboard the Tiderunner, John Robelo, Tom Walsh, Val Green and George Hildebrand used worms and clam chum to tally 90 flatties. Al noted that the tidal reaches of the Connequot have been producing a smattering of flounder, tom cod and white perch with most of the action on bloodworms or night crawlers. The shop has both baits in stock.

The Captree open boat fleet joined the flounder hunt this weekend and those skippers who sailed couldn't have been more pleased with the early results.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the Captree open boat **Captain Joseph II** reported that both the weather and fish cooperated just fine on both days. Charlie spent the weekend working south of Heckscher and as far east as Sayville in 10 to 12 feet of water. On Saturday, 18 fares totaled over 300 fish with Bob Pace showing the way with 29 flatties. Jim Callahan was close behind with 26 while Andy Gump finished the day with 24 fish. Most fares totaled 12 to 20 fish apiece while Saturday's fish were primarily large, Sunday saw a mix of fish ranging from 1/2 to 2 lbs. Sunday's action started off picky but finished up strong with 28 fares tallying more than 500 flatties. Among the better scores were Jeff and Greg Keegan with 54 flatties, George and Heather Magagnoli with 39 and Carmine

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Tringali with 25. The skipper concentrated on the Heckscher grounds on Saturday and worked further east to Sayville on Sunday. He was especially encouraged by the wide spread of fish noting that fish were taken everywhere they dropped anchor.

Captain Carl Passero of the open boat **Miss Captree** was more than pleased with Saturday and Sunday's results though he noted that Sunday's action was better than the prior day's fishing. He worked the buoy 5-Nichols Point area along with buoy 20 in East Channel and also noted the great spread of fish from Heckscher as far east as Blue Point. Smaller fish seem to predominate the further east one traveled. Closer to Heckscher big framed fish—although thin—were the rule. Carl sailed 15 fares each day, taking approximately 200 flatties on Saturday and better than 300 on Sunday. On Saturday Paul Anastasio had 21 flatties. Ricky Knudsen and Jim Budrock teamed to take 42. On Sunday, Paul Monahan had 22 fish to go with his 1.15 lb. pool winner. The skipper noted that most fares managed in the neighborhood of 20 fish apiece on Sunday. Rich and Greg Higdon had 54 flatties to 1½ lbs. between them on Sunday.

Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** added his accolades to the fine start in the bay. He had between 200 and 300 flatties aboard each day with several fares accounting for catches of 15 to 20 fish apiece. The majority of the fish ranged from 3/4 to 1¾ lbs.—nice size fish but thin . Gordon worked Heckscher and the east channel area. The skipper reminded that the Queen is currently out of the water for some sprucing up but should be back in action by Friday. If you're planning a trip towards the end of the week th4e skipper sugested phoning ahead in case of any unexpected delays.

Speaking from **Captree Bait Station** Noel Kappauf told of a few decent flounder being taken from the Jones Beach piers but no reports yet from Captree's fisherman's wharf.He confirmed the open boat fleet enjoyed good action with the flatties off of Hecksher and points east and reminded that the shop is now well supplied with blood and sand worms and mussels.

Captain Geo. Tweedy of the Captree open boat **Capt. Scotty 3**, reported a real pick on the cod with catches most days ranging from 6 to 2 dozen fish for the boat. Most fall into the 12 to 15 lb. range and are being taken over wrecks.

Backtracking for just a moment to Bay Shore, Captain Neil Delanoy of the open boat **Casey Lee** also rang in the flounder season this weekend. He called Saturday's results between Bay Shore and Heckscher fair with strong afternoon winds taking some of the starch out of the fishing. Sunday, on the other hand was labeled super with 39 fares accounting for more than 500 flatties. The skipper noted that even his dad Warren managed to take 20 fish. Greg Rodriguez put away 28 flatties while another fare managed 32. Sunday's fishing was done between Heckscher and Sayville with most of the fish in "medium to large" range. Neil reminded that he is now on a daily sailing schedule.

Speaking from **Augie's Tackle Shop** in Babylon, Tom Healy prefaced his flounder reports with an outstanding white perch catch. It seems Capt. Al Lorenzetti, Jr. who is usually more at home behind the console of his Mako, spent part of Sunday behind Times Square Stores on the Babylon Lindenhurst border. He was well rewarded for his efforts with a dozen white perch including a possible line class record fish of 1 lb. 13 oz. Al used small green Sassy Shads rigged on 1/16 oz. leadhead jigs. As for the flounder, Gary Smagala showed 18 nice fish to 1¾ lbs. taken off of Heckscher on Saturday. On Sunday, Bob Schwartz and his son Paul christened their new 21 Mako Pride Pup II with 24 flatties up to 1¼ lbs. They were taken in Range Channel, east of East Island. Tom reminded that Capt. Bob Rocchetta who gained the limelight for his catch of a world

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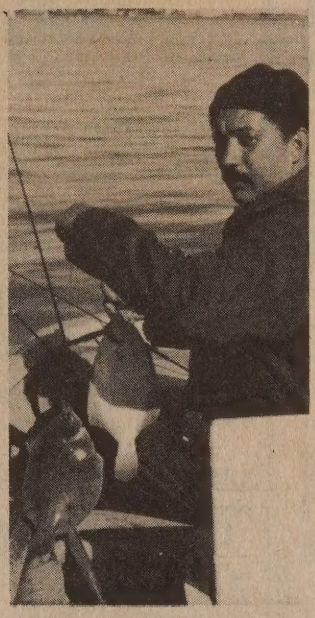

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record striped bass a few years back, but who is also a superb offshore angler, will be conducting offshore seminars in the store beginning 10AM on Saturday, March 23rd. For more info you can call the store at 669-9837.

Captain Ralph Green of the open boat **Miss Babylon** opened his season on Friday. He reported a relatively good start to the flounder season working south of Heckscher Park. On Friday's trip Jerry Schatt managed 15 flatties while 14-yr-old Michelle Di-Giacomo won the pool with a 1¼ lber. Saturday's fishing was off a bit but it bounced back on Sunday with "bus driver" John taking 25 flatties from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. and Joe Warchol copping the pool with a 1.15 lb. flattie. The **Miss Babylon** is now sailing daily at 7AM.

Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** said that while he had a fair number of guys out floundering, none reported back with their results. He did see several catches of 4 to 5 white perch per man behind TSS and atArgyle Park in Babylon. Most were being taken on blood worms or night crawlers, both of which he has in stock.

From **Z-Crab Tackle** in Copiague, Ralph Angelillo had only one local flounder report though he knew some of his customers had enjoyed some good action east at Heckscher. One local sharpy stopped to show the tackle man 20 nice flounder taken somewhere near Wansers cut. Ralph has a good supply of worms and mussels on hand for flounder fans. Concerning cod, Ralph reported nothing but bad news. He reminded that he is now stocked with a complete selection of Don Mussos' Super Strike Needlefish plugs.

Bob Vitale of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in Amity Harbor heard of several good reports concerning Heckscher flounder as well as a few fish taken at Squaw Island over the weekend. He, too, is well supplied with worms and mussels.

From **Edelman's** in Farmingdale, Frank Pristera echoed Ralph Angelillo's sentiments concerning south shore cod fishing. He then went on to report the very encouraging flounder catch made on Friday by Bob Santiago at buoy 5-Heckscher. Bob took 90 flounder of which he kept 25 filleting size fish. Frank also told of some very good flounder action which occurred in the state channel just east of the Lindenhurst Cut over the weekend. He also relayed word that Joe Lubrano used small leadhead jigs to take 6 perch up to 1½ lbs. from ARgyle Park on Thursday. A reminder that Edelman's issues freshwater fishing licenses 7 days a week.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

As the season begins to open up, some picky to decent flounder reports have been trickling in this week right through Monday. Fish have been running from a half to 1¼ lbs. and some are still full of roe. Those fishing for cod continue to pick away and while the open boats are still working the wrecks, we learn that some sharpies on private boats have been catching this week on open bottom on the anchor.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

We learn from **Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle** in Seaford that some of his customers have been catching up to a dozen flatties a man, fishing the deeper holes. The deeps off Massapequea Cove, Ft. Neck Point, and the third Wantagh have produced some fish on bloodworms.

A call from **Pop's Fishing station** passed the word that Pop's will be opening Saturday March 16 with plenty of boats in the water and all necessary bait and chum on hand.

A call to **Causeway Bait and Tackle** produced the info from Mike that the flounder action has really picked up at Massapequa Cove with good private boats bailing 40-50 good flounder per boat. Particularly productive have been the holes of Gambino's house. Also good has been the first Wantagh area on the east side. Fish are running 1/2 to 3/4 lbs. with mussels working best followed by yellow dyed clam and bloodworm on all moving water. Mike also said a few private boats have had good cod results on open bottom. Walter, a customer had 18 cod to 15 lbs. in just 3 hours of fishing in 104 feet of water southeast of Jones, anchored and chumming. The shop will have live killies and night crawlers by next week said

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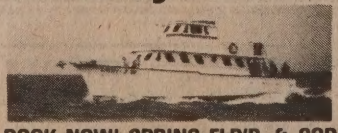

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Mike.

The word from Scott at **Merrick Tackle** in Bellmore that some flounder have been caught through Sunday off the Jones Beach piers, in Swift Creek, and in the deeps off the Coast Guard Station, with fish averaging 3/4 lb. on clam bait and clam chum.

Out of Freeport, we learned from the **Capt. Al** that codfishing has picked up a bit to the tune of 25 to 30 a cod a day for the boat, fish up to 35 lbs. Fish have been mixed, 8 to 15 lbs. average on wrecks and hard bottom, and the skipper has been working inshore and offshore spots.

Aboard the **Starstream II** this past week, cod catches have ranged from fair too good. Sunday was the best day with six cod taking the high hook honors. All action has been on wrecks. Fares have been averaging 3 to 4 fish a man all week long and pools have been in the low 30s.

A call from Capt. Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** asked us to pass along the info that their first trips of the year will begin Saturday March 9th for spring flounder.

Ed's Fishing Station in Pt. Lookout called to say they are open for business, have boats in the water and lots of bait and chum in stock. They advise you call and reserve a boat if you plan on coming down since all of their boats are not in yet.

Beckmann's Tackle in Island Park also told of flounder being caught by customers in Bay Park in the range of about a dozen a man, fish up to 1¼ lbs. Many are still loaded with roe. Fish are being caught from the Jones Beach piers also said Charlie with worms working best.

Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** in Atlantic Beach knew of some flounder that were caught in Garretts lead this weekend. Worms did it on moving water. Al also assured us that cod were caught by several private boats fishing on open boat in 105 feet of water s/s/e of Jones Inlet. These fish averaged 10 to 15 lbs. with an occasional 30 to 40 lb. cow being caught.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Skippy's Bait and Tackle in East Rockaway told of a nice showing of flounder in Bay Park up to 1¼ lbs. Fish bit on both tides, with sand worms working best over the weekend. The Lastella boys of Oceanside (3) put away 42 flatties Saturday working Baldwin Bay, fish up to 1 lb. 15 oz. on mussles and worms and light chumming. Three members of the Garcia family of Brooklyn totaled 242 flounder Saturday from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. fishing Quogue canal at buoy 7A. This was on sand worms and corn chum and all fish were sea run yellowtail flounder.

Over in Sheepshead Bay, Wee Willie at **Mike's Tackle** across from th fleet told of pretty good flounder

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fishing through the weekend for the **Pilot II, Dorothy B II**, working the Navesink River. High hook was 25 good flounder aboard the **Dorothy B II** SaturdaY. Fish are mostly keepers to 1½ lbs. on sands. Whiting was nil this week.

We have been advised that the open boat **Zephyr** will be starting flounder fishing Saturday March 9, sailing daily at 7AM

North Shore REPORT

with Marty Garrell

Despite blustery March winds, persistent anglers were picking at the first flounder of the season over the West End. Most Stations along the North Shore were open for much of the weekend and pushing worms across the counters.

WESTERN SOUND

John Palmieri at **John's Gun** in **New Rochelle** told us that shoreline action had started already. Larri Ricci said that a few flatties had come from the Glen Island Casino area. **John's Gun** will be open early on Saturday and Sunday, closing around 6 on Saturday and around 2 on Sunday. The guess is that Pete Pearson will be ready to sail on the **Klondike VIII** around Saint Pat's Day, but Pearson could not be reached for confirmation.

Jacks Bait on **City Island** had just thrown open the doors this past weekend for a few customers buying bait. Sandworms, bloodworms, and night crawlers lead the hit parade. Early flounder addicts are advised to try the Orchard Beach Lagoon. Jack Rumpf will be putting a few skiffs in the water by mid-month, and will be open from 6 a.m. until about 5 p.m. on weekends. The Cerbones told us that the **Apache** will be sailing "for sure" on Saint Patrick's Day, and the rest of the City Island fleet is expected to do the same.

Phil Nasi at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** had sandworms for sale and mentioned that a group of Sunday anglers were hitting the flounder around Dosoris Pond and the Breakwater. Weekend hours at the shop are 9-6 Saturday and 9-4 Sunday.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Jerry Cedar at **Huntington Prop** told us that Bob was back in the shop Sunday after recovering from surgery

and that the winter had been a tough one. All of us on the North Shore wish him well! Things seem to be back to normal with plenty of rods and reels to catch up on. Bait is expected next week, and the shop hours over the weekend will be 8-5 Saturday and 8-2 on Sunday. Jerry suggests trying Lloyds Harbor first and then the beaches toward Northport and Centerport for flounder.

George Valentine at **Four Winds** in **Huntington Station** informed us that Northport and Cold Spring Harbor were pretty good with Centerports Mill Dam also producing fish to ¾ pounds. George is open 7 days a week with short hours, Saturdays he's around until 5 and Sundays until noon. Mussels and worms are stocked now. After a week in Florida Billy Collins should be working on the **Ever Ready**, and he's expected to make the season's maiden voyage around April 1st.

Mel at **Greenlawn Sport Shop** sold a lot of sandworms on Sunday with skimmers moving across the counter, too. He's been busy since February 19th with Saturday hours 6-6 and Sunday 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Centerport and Crab Meadow have been producing the early flounder in his report.

Jay Gattuso at **Sutlers** in **Port Jefferson** said that the fishermen in the harbors, mostly young ones, were catching pretty well despite the cold water. Sandworms and clams are the baits of choice, and the shop hours are 10 to 5 on both Saturday and Sunday.

Stan Hentschel at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** sold out on worms and clam chum over the weekend but confided that most of his regular customers seemed to be headed east to Quogue or Shinnecock. Saturday's hours are 5 a.m. til 8 p.m. and Sunday's hours are 5 to 5.

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's** in **Mount Sinai** said that the Station is now open all the time from 7:30 until dark with sandworms and frozen clams ready to go. Boats should be ready completely by April 1st but there may be 10 or so in the water by March 15th. The deep harbor area in 20 foot depths hasn't even begun to warm and there are no catches locally just yet.

A late flash on Monday morning revealed that Carl McRitton did very well in Lloyds on Sunday. He returned to **Huntington Prop** with 10 keepers to 14 inches. Flatties were taken in shallow water with clam baits...no chum, and McRitton also had around 20 throw backs.

NORTH FORK

The **Mattituck Fishing Station** expects to open at month's end, according to Charlie Caraftis who was shaping up the livery skiffs on Sunday. Behind the counter at **Warrens** in **Aquebogue**, George told us that a few canal fishermen (usually

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Freshwater REPORT *with Tom Schlichter*

Not too much action to report on the local scene of yet but the recent warming trend should promt more anglers to get out and give it a try. For those fishermen working the Connetquot and Nissequogue Rivers, slow to fair trout action has been available and a smattering of reports indicate that yellow perch, in most waters, are responding well to fishermen's efforts. Upstate, action on brown and rainbow trout in Lake Ontario and its tributaries has been very good.

The word from Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in Patchogue was that there are lots of white perch available in the tidal creeks with Mr. Twister Tails or worms proving to be effective baits. Sea run trout in Tuthills Creek have been quiet of late and the trout action inside Connequot State Park has been a bit on the slow side. A few anglers have been taking yellow perch from the Mill Pond in Patchogue.

The folks at **J & R Sport Center** in Oakdale reported this week that trout action on the Connetquot River has remained unchanged with a few decent catches reported but little to get excited about. A lot of small trout being culled from Bubbles Falls with an occasional keeper mixed in. Please make sure any fish you keep is over the New York State minimum of nine inches. Don Visek managed a nice 2½ lb. brookie from the park on Thursday while Mike Dentici used small bucktails to drill a 16½" brown trout and 3 big white perch from the tidal reaches of the Connetquot on Sunday.

Over at Lake Ronkonkoma, anglers have been picking mostly small yellow and white perch from the eastern shoreline on night crawler baits. No reports of bullheads or pickerel so far.

Bill Johnson of **Odyssey Charters** in Rochester, N.Y. called Saturday to inform us that the fishing for brown trout in Lake Ontario near the Russell and Ginna power plants has been red hot with fishermen taking limits of four and five pound fish from shore. Rebel and Rapala plugs in green or light blue have been the ticket to success and many anglers have been filling their limits in as little as an hour of fishing. Steelhead action on the Genesee River has been good with the Seth Green Island area producing 6-8 lb. steelies on egg sacs. Over in the Niagara River, the steelhead from Devil's Hole and Whirlpool park have been running up to 12 lbs.

that means Shinnecock) were taking one keeper for every 5 fish. Frozen clams are about the only fare available right now.

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1973 SEA RAY 19' 115 Johnson, CB, radio/ant., depth finder, SS Prop. Slip avail. $4300 negotiable. Eves: 724-5049.

1974 17' WELLCRAFT, center console, 30 gal. fuel tank. A-1 cond. Boat only. $2000. 516-731-0379.

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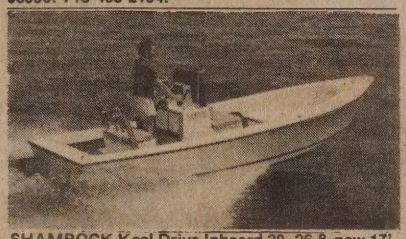

SHAMROCK Keel Drive Inboard 20, 26 & new 17', 4 cyl. FWC 130 hp. Introductory Special-$11,995. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400.

1980 SEA CRAFT 23' Sceptre cuddy. Last boat built by original SeaCraft. Purchased late 1981. Fastest fishing boat its size on LI. 60 mph+, 1982 twin 225 hp Mercurys, SS props, Nelco Loran, Mecca paper & digital recorder, standard VHF, Ritchie compass, Pompanette fight chair, T/T, Morse controls, hyd. steering, 5 rod holders, outriggers. Full gauges; new Bimini top, plus new canvas top, side curtains, drop curtains. Also new mooring cover from windshield to motors, teak rod racks. Everything like new. $25,000. 516-536-2382.

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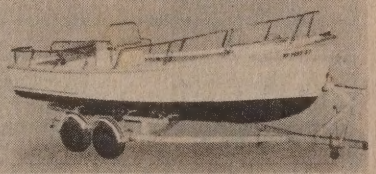

Illness forces Sale of 1982 SISU 22', custom fitted center console, SS rails, 60 hp Peugeot Lehman diesel, 128 hrs. Dodger, Richie compass, DF. All CG requirements. Cost $22,000+ Price: $15,000; $16,000 w/dual tandem EZ-Loader galv. trailer, electric winch. 516-421-5110 or 692-6857.

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42' Hatteras, VT 903s
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23' Sea Bird, twin I/O
23' 236 Mako, 235 Evinrude, Loran
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21' MFG, open sport
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SUZUKI Outboards—MC KEE CRAFT Boats. INFLATABLES: Sea Eagle, Nova & Ampac. Summer dockage—winter storage. KREMER'S BOATYARD, Seaford. 516-221-8877.

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FOR SALE: 1982 200 hp Evinrude engine. Low hours. $3500 + $200 winter storage charge. 718-625-3921.

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1981 Blackfin 32' tower w/controls, 270 hp Cats Turbos generator, Air Cond; tear package, compl. electronics. Windlass. Owner has new boat.
Striker 1977 - 37' aluminum, half tower. Full fish catchin boat, teak cockpit, twin 67iTIs. Radar, Loran, VHF, temp. Bridge, release riggers.
Uniflite, 1974 Salty Dog w/pipewelders full tower. Twin 225 fwC Chryslers, Loran, water temp, auto-pilot, VHF, CB. Good well beuilt offshore fishing machine.
1976 Bertram Flybridge, T-454 FWC. Outfitted for serious fishing.
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25' GRADY WHITE Trophy, 1983, 260 hp Mercruiser I/O. FWC, trim tabs, hard top w/rod holders. Full canvas encl., dual batt., etc. $33,000. With electronics & fight chair-$35,000. 203-642-7548.

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1979 Mark Twain 19' OMC 200 hp I/O-$5000
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Grady White 204-C, 1983 150 hp Johnson Demo + Helm cover-$15,965.
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18' STEIGER CRAFT, 50 hp Mercury elec. start. 21' model also avail. Commercial & pleasure models. MARINELAND: Mattituck, 516-298-4020. Long Beach, 516-889-5000.

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WANTED: Johnson Evinrude Outboards. Any cond. Will pick up. Used parts available. 516-981-6487.

AQUASPORT 19' 6" Console; 79 Johnson 115, new powerhead, new lower unit, trailer, extras. $6500. 734-6993.

22' CHRIS CRAFT Sportsman Center Console 1984 200 hp Mercury, oil injected; CB, VHF, DF, dual batt. Many extras. Excl. cond. $10,500. Eves: 516-587-2078.

all 1984 EVINRUDES—Sale prices w/extended warranties. MARINELAND, Long Beach, 516-889-5000.

1958 31' EGG HARBOR F/B S/F, 2 FWC Chrysler. Rebuilt 6/84. Sleeps 4. Head, galley, VHF, CB, D/F, fight chair. Dock paid. $7500. 516-981-3053.

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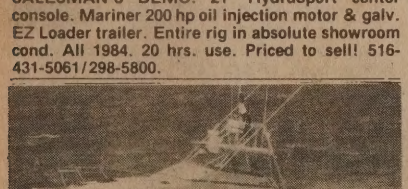
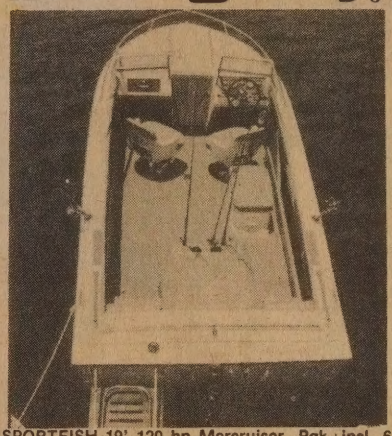


LUHRS 340—offers more standard features than any other Sportfisherman in her class, including the welded aluminum tower, compl. w/console. In Stock. Also dealers for Sportcraft—IMP—OMC Sea Drive; OMC Stern Drive; Johnson; Mercruiser. SPELLMAN'S MARINE, 1708 North Hwy, Southampton, NY 11968; 516-283-7907.

1984 WELLCRAFT 22' 8" Sportsman, twin Yamaha oil injected 115', Loran, chart recorder, VHF, CB, AM/FM Stereo cassette, SW washdown. Like new. Extras. $25,000. 516-796-3549.

1976 34' Webber's Cove, Fiberglass lobster boat. Diesel; hydraulic steering, washdown pump. Monel shaft, muffler, 120 gal. fuel, keel cooler, chart recorder, VHF. Low hrs. Clean; well maintained. $32,000. 516-298-9690.

Stingray



SPORTFISH 19' 120 hp Mercruiser. Pgk. incl. 6 rod holders, cooler, sun top. Full instrumentation; lockable storage; 2 fishing chairs, Stern plat., SS HANDRAILS* P/T, CG pkg. Fish ready. $11,490. WHITE WATER MARINE, Sayville, 516-589-2502

1984 SEA DEVIL 29' Twin 270s, FWC. Loaded. Used one season. Trading up. Compare 85 price & save. $49,000. 516-265-0899.

ELECTRONICS: VHF, CB, Outriggers, 40' Bridge release-$700. Mufflers 6"-Offers. Deck Box, big one. 516-728-6627.

'79 24' GRADY WHITE Mint cond. 241 Weekender. Fully equip. fishing machine. Trim tabs, port. head. Full canvas, Perko troll rod holders, Motorola VHF, Super Cheater DF, Micrologic 500 Loran X-15 low range recorder; 8 & 12 transducers. Dual batt, system w/isolator. Boat avail. for sale with or W/O electronics. Must sell. New boat arrived. Days: 718-643-0536. Eves: 718-372-2279.

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SEA CRAFT 23' 1979. Full equipped, 225 Merc., depth finder, VHF, sea water temp gauge, T-top, outriggers. Mint cond. $17,500. 516-546-7730 After 5.

1980 MAKO 25'
1983 235 Johnson. Full electronics; fishing equipt. Much more. Must sell by 3-30-85. Eves: 516-957-8136.

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16' MFG Bowrider w/trailer, 50 hp Johnson w/stainless steel prop. Many extras. Excl. cond. Asking $2200. Eves: 718-456-2766.

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1981 Century 5000, 23', 228 Merc. Less than 100 hrs. Full canvas & electronics. $15,200 Neg. After 6PM: 516-546-2879.

79 SEA CRAFT 23' Sceptre cuddy, 235 hp Evinrude, Outriggers, T/T, dual batt. Porta-Potti, live well, washdown. Full canvas, Loran, recorder, depthfinder, Knot meter, VHF. Much more. Mint. 516-271-0226.

FISHERMEN! Mercury Outboards—2 hp to 200 hp in stock! Rinker & Glassmaster boats. Best prices. Trades considered. MR. OUTBOARD, 246 N. Main St., Sayville, NY. 516-589-8513.

26' FORTIER 1981 450 hrs. 200 hp Perkins. Full canvas. Loran, fishfinder, etc. Very clean. $39,000. Mon-Fri. 8-5. 516-582-4566. Brokers don't call.

1962 25' BERTRAM Hard Top, twin Volvo Penta I/O. Rebuilt 83. $11,000. 203-222-7988. 212-697-7976.

RAVELCRAFT 30' FB Flybridge, twin controls. Stand-up head. Sleeps 6. 230 OMC; full electronics. Many extras. Asking $12,000. 516-277-0451.

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CRUISERS, 1979/1980 22' Barnegat 228 hp I/O. DF, VHF; many extras. $9900. 516-379-6844.

50' CHARTER/PARTY Boat—Lic. 38+2, 2-671s, Radar, Loran C, 2 fish finders, 2 VHFs, CB, Hailer Intercom, 4½ K.W. gen, night lights, oil heat. Excl. cond. Ready to go. Serious inquiries only. 914-235-0677.

1979 GALAXY 19' 85 hp Mercury, 18 gal. built in fuel tank. Seats 6 people. 4-wheel trailer. Very good cond. $4950. Days: 516-354-0654.

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WANTED: Used boat trailer. Suitable for 14' aluminum boat. (516) 581-0048

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Heavy duty Pompanette fighting chair—needs foot rest-$475
1 set L/R Props 17x16x1¼-$200
1 set L/R Props 22x24x1-3/8-$350
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15 Man Life Raft in sealed explodeable canister. CG inspected. Must sell. 718-448-2474.

HUBBEL 50' 30 Amp Cord-$50. 516-661-9363.

BOAT OWNERS: Full set covers. Navy top, side curtains, back drops. Frames not included. To 22'. First quality Chrysler vinyl. $285. FOREAN KUSTOM, 549-9489.

WANTED: Loran radios, radar color fishfinder, fishing tackle, gaffs, chair winch. Nas. MIKE: 516-766-5078.

ELECTRONICS FOR SALE: Micrologic 5000 Loran C, Si-Tex 767 Loran C. Both in mint cond.; 1-yr-old. Will Demo both. Eves: 718-241-0757. Days: 718-934-4520.

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Hydro Hoise, Model #4000HG. Weight capacity 4000 lbs. Compl. w/pump & hardware. Like new. Asking $1100. 718-849-2194 or 718-326-0835.

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DALE CLEMENS Custom Rod Bldg. Supplies exclusively at LINDENHURST BAIT & TACKLE. Extra 10% discount w/Ad. 226-9030.

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WANTED: Fenwick Trolling rod 50# traditional brown. Discontinued model 640 only. Good cond. a must. 212-222-3325.

PENN 9/0 Senator, never used. Dynaflex 80 lb. rod, Aftco rollers. Together $175. Penn Silverbeach 99. Best offer. 718-761-9607.

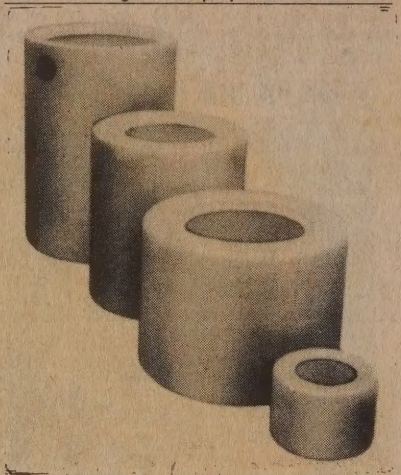
EDELMAN'S—EDELMAN'S—EDELMAN'S
Huge inventory ... cheapest prices. 7 Days. See ad Page 2.

MISCELLANEOUS

"100 SELECTED FRANCHISES"
for $10,000 & under. Some zero cost. Named, information sources, equity capital needed. Send $10 check or money order to: A. GIAMBALVO, P.O. Box 0192, Centerport, NY 11721. Allow 3 weeks.

ONE MAN Wants to get on a Spring Montauk Cod Charter on any Sunday or Monday. Days: 212-823-7060.

MATE WANTED: Full time for Freeport Party boat. Must be good with people. 516-766-5716.



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HOUSE PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

CAPTAIN/MATE—WANTED:
Full time—Mid-May to mid-November. 45' Fully rigged Sportfish. Freeport based. Experience & references a must. Dr. A: 718-626-0499.

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SUMMER DOCKAGE & Winter Storage avail. Deep, wide, picturesque river in Copiague, 20 mins. to Frank & Dick's. Full service: Mercruiser, OMC & Volvo. Used boats for sale. Check us out. 519 MARINA, 842-1579. HARBOR MARINE CORP., 789-8789.

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MATE NEEDED—Seaford based open boat. Attitude more important than experience. Eves: 516-731-2108.

SLIPS Available: Hampton Bays. Clean, "Full Service" marina. 25' max. 516-728-0619.

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FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN—Water deliveries, boat/navigation instruction; charters & trips. 516-795-4498.

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Name Brands 20-50% off list, prices incl. shipping, fishing, hunting, camping. Example Rebel 7" Silver Blue Minnows-$3.25 ea; Hoppes Gun Cleaning Kits-$6.85 ea; Buck 4" folding hunter-$31.50 ea. Catalog $1; refundable 1st order. P.O. BOX 367, Northboro, MA 10532.

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ON WATER Boat Deliveries. USCG Licensed captain—pleasure & commercial. MARINE SURVEY SERVICE, 516-757-7041.

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	7:50	8:15	8:40	9:00	8:25	8:50	9:15	9:45	11:10	11:40	11:15	11:35	7:50	8:10	3/7
FRI.	8:35	9:05	9:25	9:45	9:15	9:40	10:05	10:30	—	12:00	—	12:00	8:35	8:55	3/8
SAT.	9:25	9:55	10:10	10:35	10:05	10:30	10:55	11:20	12:25	12:50	12:20	12:50	9:20	9:45	3/9
SUN.	10:15	10:45	11:00	11:25	10:55	11:25	11:50	—	1:10	1:40	1:10	1:40	10:10	10:35	3/10
MON.	11:10	11:40	11:50	—	11:50	—	12:15	12:45	2:00	2:35	2:00	2:35	11:05	11:30	3/11
TUES.	—	12:05	12:20	12:45	12:20	12:50	1:10	1:50	2:55	3:40	2:55	3:35	—	12:05	3/12
WED.	12:35	1:05	1:20	1:50	1:20	1:50	2:15	2:55	4:05	5:15	4:00	4:40	12:30	1:05	3/13
THURS.	1:40	2:10	2:30	3:05	2:20	2:55	3:20	4:10	5:40	6:40	11:40	—	1:40	2:10	3/14

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 3/7	6:26	5:57
FRI. 3/8	6:24	5:59
SAT. 3/9	6:23	6:00
SUN. 3/10	6:20	6:01
MON. 3/11	6:19	6:02
TUE. 3/12	6:18	6:03
WED. 3/13	6:17	6:04

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 3/7	6:48PM	6:57AM
FRI. 3/8	8:05PM	7:24AM
SAT. 3/9	19:23PM	7:51AM
SUN. 3/10	10:40PM	8:20AM
MON. 3/11	11:56PM	8:52AM
TUE. 3/12	—	9:30AM
WED. 3/13	1:10AM	10:15AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
2/19	2/27	3/7	3/13

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	5:05	11:10	5:20	11:35
Fri.	5:50	—	6:20	12:05
Sat.	7:00	12:40	7:20	1:05
Sun.	7:45	1:35	8:15	2:00
Mon.	8:45	2:35	9:15	3:00
Tues.	9:45	3:35	10:15	4:00
Wed.	10:45	4:35	11:20	5:05
Thurs.	11:40	5:30	—	6:00

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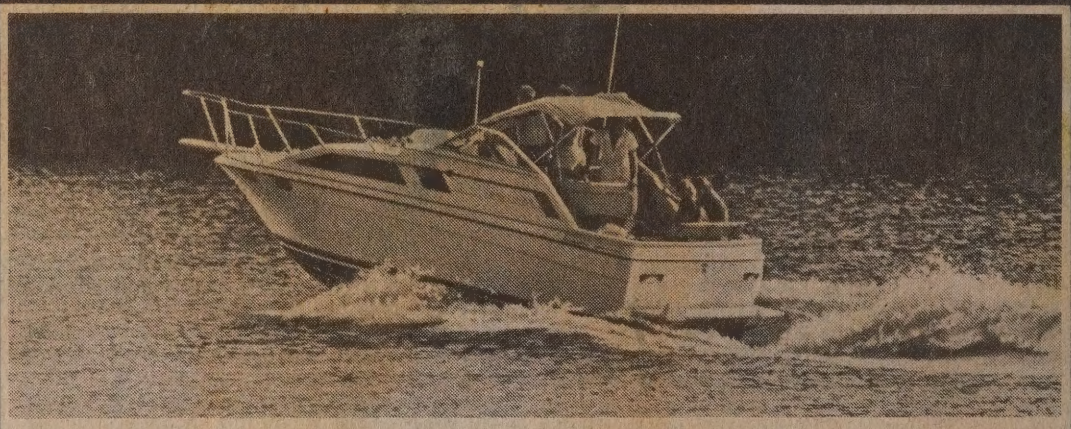

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